

STATE OF MAINE
LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING

In the Matter of
Zoning Petition ZP 779A

October 23, 2023

Night 3 of 3 of Public Comment

BEFORE: Karen A Dube-Harriman, Notary Public at
THE CROSS INSURANCE CENTER, 515 Main Street, Bangor, Maine.

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1 MR. WORCESTER: Good evening. I now call to
2 order this session of the public hearing of the Land
3 Use Planning Commission on Zoning Petition ZP 779A,
4 Wolfden Mt. Chase LLC proposed rezoning to allow for
5 the Pickett Mountain Mine. My name is Everett
6 Worcester. I represent Piscataquis County on the
7 Commission. I'm the current Chairman of the
8 Commission and I'll be the hearing officer tonight.
9 Perry?

10 MR. ELLSWORTH: Perry Ellsworth, Franklin
11 County.

12 MS. HILTON: Gwen Hilton, Somerset County.

13 MS. FITZGERALD: Betsy Fitzgerald, Washington
14 County.

15 MR. ELWELL: Caleb Elwell, Assistant Attorney
16 General for the Commission.

17 MS. BEYER: Stacie Beyer, Executive Director
18 for the Commission.

19 MR. TRUDEL: Leo Trudel, Aroostook County.

20 MR. PRAY: Peter Pray, Penobscot County.

21 MR. WORCESTER: This hearing is being held
22 pursuant to provisions of Title 12, Section 684 and
23 Chapter 12 of the Commission's Rules; Mining and
24 Level C Mineral Exploration Activity. The hearing
25 will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 of

1 the Commission's Rules for the conduct of public
2 hearings and the State Administrative Procedures
3 Act. The purpose of this session is to receive
4 public testimony on the proposed rezoning of the
5 Pickett Mountain Mine. This session is being
6 recorded and livestreamed. First, the applicant will
7 give a brief introduction to the proposal. Mr.
8 Ouellette.

9 JEREMY OUELLETTE: Thank you, Commissioners.
10 Good evening, Chairman Worcester, Commissioners and
11 members of the public. My name is Jeremy Ouellette.
12 I'm the Vice President of Project Development for
13 Wolfden Resources and I just want to give a brief
14 introduction on our proposed Pickett Project.

15 So, the Pickett Project is a proposed small
16 underground state-of-the-art mineral deposit
17 project. It's located 9 miles north of Patten,
18 Maine -- if I can get the pointer to work on the
19 screen there -- north along Route 11. And then this
20 is a little bit of a zoomed-in image. So, as I was
21 mentioning, north along Route 11 and then there's a
22 4.4 mile access road as a preexisting logging road
23 from Route 11 out to the site. The green box,
24 rectangle box there, that's Wolfden's property
25 ownership. Around 7100 acres and then there's a

1 little yellow shape in the middle of that box is the
2 area that we're proposing to rezone which is around
3 374 acres.

4 So, this is the proposal for the mine site
5 layout. For reference that yellow shape is now this
6 black outline on the outer edge. There's a 400 foot
7 buffer boundary between the outer edge and the other
8 extent of any proposed infrastructure. You'll
9 notice that the infrastructure is proposed in kind
10 of 3 areas. One is the Phase 1, to the bottom left
11 is the Phase 2 and then up north is the green which
12 is the proposed solar field. All together those 3
13 phases equal out to about 129 acres of the 374.

14 So, to go through this area, Phase 1 is
15 inclusive of our underground access which is rather
16 small. It's called a portal as you can see here.
17 The portal is an opening to underground. In our
18 case it's going to be around 64 foot wide by about
19 100 feet long and that is sort of like the
20 initiation of the underground tunnel. In addition
21 to that Phase 1 also has a series of pads for ore
22 rock storage, waste rock storage and then low-grade
23 ore storage. It also has a snow storage for any
24 collected contaminated snow and then most
25 importantly it has a robust water management area

1 which is inclusive of a water collection pond rated
2 for a one in 500 year storm event; 24-hour storm
3 event, ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis water
4 treatment facility to bring water quality to a Class
5 A standard and then a post water treatment storage
6 pond which from the water treatment plant cleaned
7 water gets deposited into a pond where it's been
8 measured and then assured that quality is achieved.
9 To discharge that clean water that's, again, a Class
10 A standard we propose a series of spray irrigation
11 and snow making machines in areas. And, by doing
12 that we're proposing that we get treated water back
13 in the surrounding environment via its natural --
14 basically, mimicking precipitation.

15 Moving to Phase 2 -- so this phase only takes
16 place in Year 3 -- Year 2 or Year 3 of the
17 operation. And, what that includes is a shaft which
18 is a vertical opening, a smaller one, 6 feet by 16
19 feet, roughly. And, is vertical and used as a rock
20 conveyance from the deeper parts of the mine which
21 I'll get into. In addition to that there's also a
22 couple of rock pads on there as well. Again, all of
23 the rock pads are lined -- double lined to ensure
24 all potentially contaminated water is collected.
25 There's not much to say about the solar field. It's

1 roughly -- just under 50 acres of the total 129 acre
2 foot cleared area.

3 So this is what mining would look like here.
4 On the bottom left is an image of what that portal
5 might look like. For scale that white vehicle right
6 there is about the size of a half-ton truck to the
7 right of the schematic of what that mining operation
8 mine looks like. So, again, the portal would start
9 on the surface and take advantage of the surface
10 topography and then enter a series of tunnels that
11 are developed 16 foot by 16 foot in cross-section
12 and then switchback or Helix down to specific
13 elevations. Once those desired elevations are
14 achieved then a horizontal drip is driven the same
15 profile into the deposit itself as depicted by ore
16 body here. The ore body starts -- the ore body
17 comes to surface, but our mining operation is really
18 only going to start at about 100 feet vertically.
19 And, so, once the horizontal developments are driven
20 into the deposits then a drill is used to perforate
21 the deposit. The rocks are then fragmented with
22 explosives and then a low profile front-end loader
23 comes in and picks up the rock that have been
24 fragmented, loads it into a truck and then the truck
25 hauls it up to surface. The rocks are excavated

1 from this area in the development. Those are
2 preferentially developed in inert rock, essentially
3 aggregate. Those rocks are temporarily stored on
4 the surface on a lined -- doubled-lined pad and as
5 more components of the ore body are removed and then
6 those rocks that came from the initial tunnels are
7 then brought back underground, which is called
8 backfill. So at no point is there a large
9 excavation on scale. It's about 4 million tons and
10 we're looking at, roughly, 4,000 tons at a time.

11 So one of the things to point out is we're
12 focused on zinc -- zinc, copper, lead, a little bit
13 of silver and a little bit of gold. And really all
14 this slide points to is that these minerals are used
15 by everybody every day in significant volumes; zinc
16 and copper of which are both on the critical
17 minerals list in the US.

18 So pending we are able to protect the natural
19 resources all around the project and ensure that
20 water is being managed very well. Why would people
21 be interested in the project? Well, the benefits --
22 I won't get into a lot of detail, but essentially
23 looking at 270 jobs all in, 233 associated to the
24 mine only, particularly high wages as an industry
25 standard and significant training programs to fill

1 those roles. And from an economic, sort of, a
2 regional economics perspective over the duration of
3 the mine life which is 10 to 15 years operating run
4 life we're looking at around seven hundred million
5 dollar output.

6 So what are the employment needs? Basically
7 the skill sets exists in Maine. We're looking for
8 operators, mechanics, welders, you know, a whole
9 slew of skills that exist here currently. I
10 mentioned the training course earlier. That
11 training course is really training the skill sets
12 that exist here already in the environment that they
13 would be working in; i.e., underground tunnels.
14 This table depicts a list of the types of positions
15 and this is really the focus of the underground
16 here, so equipment operators, mechanics, laborers,
17 and miners.

18 So in terms of the schedules we're obviously in
19 a rezoning hearing and pending a favorable decision
20 post-hearing we're looking at 2 to 3 years of
21 baseline study work that is first also approved by,
22 well, DEP at that stage with public input. Those
23 baseline studies would happen currently with mine
24 feasibility and a detail design and update. After
25 that we'd go through another public hearing process,

1 but under the DEP in association with the Chapter
2 200 Rule and then pending a decision there then we
3 have a 2-year construction phase followed by a
4 10-year -- 10 to 15-year mine operating life with 2
5 to 3 years of reclamation at the end of that and
6 monitoring in perpetuity. That is my introduction
7 to Pickett.

8 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. If you want to
9 speak this evening and have not yet signed up to do
10 so, please see one of the LUPC staff. At the moment
11 we have, roughly, 55 people who have signed up to
12 speak which means each speaker is going to have 3
13 minutes. Three minutes is not a lot of time. We
14 recognize that. Let me give you a thumbnail of 3
15 minutes. If you have 2 double-spaced typed pages
16 you're probably not going to get through the second
17 page before the 3 minutes is up. If you have single
18 space one page and half the game is over. What I
19 would suggest you think about doing is picking out
20 the 3 or 4 key things that you want us to be aware
21 of in your presentation and you'd have about 40
22 seconds per item to highlight your concern. And if
23 you have typed a typed presentation Tim Carr will
24 take your typed presentation and we will put the
25 whole thing up on our website. So if you have

1 prepared 2 or 3 pages of testimony it will show up
2 on the website. We just won't listen to it all here
3 tonight, okay?

4 At this time I will ask all persons planning to
5 testify this evening to stand and raise your right
6 hand. Do you affirm that the testimony you are
7 about to give is the whole truth and nothing but the
8 truth?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (Collectively) I do.

10 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. You may be seated.
11 The LUPC staff is going to be calling up speakers
12 and what the plan is is to call up the first 3
13 speakers. And then, as a speaker leaves, we're
14 going to call up another speaker so we'll have 3
15 people sitting up front all the time ready to come
16 to the podium and we'll call out the names as they
17 were signed. When your name is called you should
18 come to the microphone which is there. Please
19 clearly identify yourself by name and place of
20 residence and whether you represent an individual,
21 firm, or a legal entity before beginning your
22 testimony. Speak clearly so that an accurate
23 account on this proceeding may be recorded and to
24 ensure that your comments can be considered. We do
25 have a court reporter here tonight taking down all

1 the testimony plus it's being recorded
2 electronically. So please don't speak too quickly
3 because you will snow the gal that's doing the
4 typing. Just a little housekeeping. If you don't
5 know where the restrooms you go out the door take a
6 right go a half mile take the next right and go a
7 half mile; and that's where the water fountain is as
8 well. Audie, do you want to call the names, please.

9 MS. ARBO: First up is Glenn Adams and if Kim
10 McCluskey and Landis Hudson would come forward,
11 please.

12 MR. WORCESTER: Also, we have people with signs
13 that warn you that you've got 2 minutes left, 1
14 minute left, 30 seconds left you're out.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Glenn Adams. I'm
16 a resident of Oakland, Maine. I'm here representing
17 myself tonight.

18 Members of the Maine LUPC, good evening LUPC
19 Chair Worcester and LUPC Commissioners. My name is
20 Glenn Adams and I'm a resident of Oakland, Maine. I
21 am testifying today in support of Wolfden's rezoning
22 application related to the Pickett Mountain Mine
23 project. As a Maine-born resident exceeding 40
24 years in age I truly appreciate all the state has to
25 offer, that includes time spent outdoors with my

1 wife and 4 children. During Labor Day weekend in
2 2022 we enjoyed our time staying at the Mattawamkeag
3 Wilderness Campground on the banks of the east
4 branch of the Penobscot River and exploring upper
5 and lower South Branch Pond in Baxter State Park.
6 I'm a licensed professional engineer educated at the
7 University of Maine. I've been fortunate enough to
8 be able to work in Maine for much of my career.
9 Over the last 2 decades I've seen many types of
10 projects both public and private, environmentally
11 sensitive and with high visibility be constructed
12 and seen others die in the permitting and approval
13 process. I've also worked in every corner of the
14 state from Presque Isle to Danforth to Roxbury and
15 Kittery in places with significant opportunity for
16 our residents and others with little to offer. I am
17 asking for you to approve Wolfden's application and
18 let them move onto the next steps of this process.
19 Let Wolfden prove themselves in the study and
20 permitting phase and watch them create local jobs
21 and opportunity for the residents of this great
22 state. I thank you for your time and for the
23 opportunity to testify and I'd be happy to answer
24 any questions you may have.

25 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

1 MS. ARBO: Up next is Tim McCluskey followed by
2 Landis Hudson and if Eliza Townsend could come up
3 front, please.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Tim
5 McCluskey and I'm here in support of the Wolfden
6 project in the Mt. Chase area. Just briefly. I
7 grew up in Aroostook County and I hauled logs up and
8 down Route 11 in the 1970s. And as I watched all
9 the sawmills up and down those corridors close and
10 the paper mills closed I moved down to Bangor and,
11 again, I've worked in every sawmill and every paper
12 mill in the state and I saw this opportunity. I've
13 been reading about it in the paper. I have friends
14 that live in the area. I've hunted deer around Mt.
15 Chase. I've gone fishing around Mt. Chase. I've
16 got friends that own camps on Shin Pond and they're
17 all in agreement with this project. And I think it
18 would be a shame if we didn't give them an
19 opportunity to prove themselves. God gave us these
20 minerals in the ground and we should take advantage
21 of it when we can. Thank you.

22 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

23 MS. ARBO: Up next is Landis Hudson followed by
24 Eliza Townsend and if Chad Perkins could come up
25 front, please.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Landis Hudson. I'm a
2 resident of Yarmouth, Maine and I'm speaking here on
3 behalf of the nonprofit Maine Rivers. We appreciate
4 this opportunity to speak regarding the application
5 for rezoning submitted by Wolfden Resources and we
6 do not support the request and recommend that the
7 LUPC deny the rezoning request. The proposed mine
8 would be located in an area of high quality water,
9 largely Class A. These waters would not be allowed
10 to accept waters from the mining operation without
11 significant amounts of treatment. Having listened
12 to hours of testimony and discussion in Millinocket
13 we are left with more questions than answers. We do
14 not know -- we do know by the very nature that
15 mining operations have negative impacts on water
16 quality, where and exactly how the processing of
17 mineral materials will take place, how much water
18 will be used and where and when and exactly how will
19 that occur? How will materials be transported? We
20 do not know enough about the costs and realities
21 associated with Wolfden's plans to go forward.

22 I do not believe that the LUPC can determine
23 that Wolfden's activities will have no undue adverse
24 impact on existing users. It wasn't clear to me
25 that Wolfden Resources sees their job as cracking

1 the door open enough to allow some other entity in
2 to actually run these mining operations. We heard a
3 lot about Equinox Partners out of Stamford,
4 Connecticut, their interest, their balance sheets
5 and their investors. I would like us to consider
6 Maine and our future as the more important
7 stakeholder. The area under consideration is
8 designated as an outstanding river segment under
9 Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act; NRPA,
10 located close to the proposed industrial site. Our
11 state heritage fish waters designated as such could
12 impact habitat, valuable ecology and an ability to
13 provide value to brook trout. Maine is the last
14 true stronghold for its stream-dwelling population
15 of wild brook trout. We believe that this proposal
16 opens the door to unnecessary risk in the headwaters
17 of the Penobscot River. The waters of the Penobscot
18 are now, hopefully, beginning to recover from
19 generations of industrial abuse including PCBs,
20 mercury contamination, PFAS and landfill leaching.
21 We are concerned that the proposed mining plan
22 relies too heavily on unknowns to successfully carry
23 out the proposed operations and the risks to
24 conservation are too great in this area. Thank you.

25 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

1 MS. ARBO: Up next is Eliza Townsend followed
2 by Chad Perkins and if Dwayne Tomah could come
3 forward, please.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I am Eliza
5 Townsend. I am a resident of Leeds and I am here
6 tonight as the Maine Director of Conservation Policy
7 for the Appalachian Mountain Club. We own 114,000
8 acres of forest land in Piscataquis County where we
9 operate 3 back county lodges, maintain 130 miles of
10 trails open to the public and provide outdoor
11 education for every student in Piscataquis County.
12 For 12 years now we have worked to restore the
13 Atlantic salmon along with partners and restored 126
14 miles of rivers on streams so that today the
15 Atlantic salmon is able to reach historic its
16 headwaters at Gulf Hagas for the first time in more
17 than 180 years. We're deeply invested in our
18 communities and in Maine natural resources because
19 we know that Maine's clean environment is our most
20 desirable asset. The parcel proposed for rezoning
21 drains to bodies of water that hold special status
22 and ultimately the Penobscot River. The importance
23 of the Penobscot River Watershed to Maine's
24 ecosystems and economy is hard to overstate. Now
25 the critical issue is this application is, of

1 course, add acid mine drainage and the applicant
2 does not dispute that, but they're using an age-old
3 strategy in trying to focus -- to say this is just
4 the rezoning steps. We'll worry about the
5 environmental impact in front of the Department of
6 Environmental Protection. Please, don't fall for
7 it. LUPC's rule, Chapter 10 states that to approve
8 the proposed application the LUPC must find that the
9 proposed development is reasonably self-contained
10 and self-sufficient, well planned and not
11 detrimental to other values in its comprehensive
12 plan including diverse, abundant and unique
13 high-value natural resources and features and
14 natural character. The burden of proof is upon the
15 applicant to show by substantial evidence that the
16 proposal satisfies that criteria and Wolfden has not
17 met that burden of proof. Further, state law
18 requires that in reviewing the petition for zone
19 change for the purpose of metallic mineral mining
20 the commission must consider the impacts upon the
21 areas within and adjacent to the Commission's
22 jurisdiction including ecological and natural values
23 and public health, safety and general welfare. And
24 yet, we do not know where the placement of
25 processing and tailings will take place so without

1 that information the commission simply does not have
2 a complete application from which to make a
3 decision. Further, the LUPC must not approve
4 rezoning unless it determines that the applicant is
5 both committed and economically capable of ensuring
6 that there will be no impacts on Class A surface
7 waters, and yet, the applicant has not met that
8 requirement. Third-party reviewer SWCA
9 Environmental Consultants writes: The environmental
10 and other permitting requirements for water have not
11 been considered in this assessment of financial
12 practicality of the project. That's an alarming
13 statement. The application before you --

14 MR. WORCESTER: Ma'am, you need to finish.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The application before you is
16 not a complete application and the LUPC must ensure
17 that the proposal is not detrimental to local
18 residents and property owners, ecological and
19 natural values, recreation and public health.
20 Without a full application before you you do not
21 have the means to make that decision.

22 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

23 MS. ARBO: Up next is Chad Perkins followed by
24 Dwayne Tomah and if Mali Obomsawin would come
25 forward, please.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, ladies and
2 gentlemen. My name is Chad Perkins. I serve at the
3 Maine House of Representatives representing District
4 31. Though I represent District 31 I am somewhat
5 familiar with the communities that would be directly
6 affected by the project as I am involved in a large
7 nonprofit serves these communities directly. While
8 Maine at one time boasted robust timber, farming,
9 mining and even manufacturing industry what few
10 industries are left in Maine struggle to survive.
11 Starting with the loss of the significant portion of
12 the labor force resulting from the fact that Maine
13 lost 4 men per capita than any other union state in
14 the Civil War, years of economic immigration and
15 poor economic energy and tax policies followed that
16 has left our state economy devastated. Maine has
17 the third highest tax burden in the nation and
18 consistently rates among the worst in the nation
19 overall in energy costs. While some continuously
20 endeavor to put all of the eggs of our economic hope
21 singular basket of tourism our businesses suffer,
22 tax burden on individual citizens increases and our
23 largest export remains our young people. Industrial
24 business ventures that seek a home in our state
25 should be welcomed as they could offer much

1 employment opportunities for Maine citizens,
2 shoulder large portions of municipal tax burdens and
3 contribute to a healthy and diversified economy.
4 Additionally, Maine has what may be considered the
5 strictest, most stringent and ecologically-friendly
6 mining laws of any state in the nation. Any mining
7 project including the Pickett Mountain Project would
8 have to meet the regulations and statutory
9 requirements that were developed in cooperation with
10 and approved by the Natural Resources Council of
11 Maine and Travel Limited in passing the law in 2017
12 by the Maine Legislature. It is imperative that we
13 continue to grow our economy so that we do not crush
14 the backs of individual tax payers in the face of
15 ever-growing state budgets and it is equally
16 important that we provide stable, well-paying and
17 dependable ongoing jobs for Maine residents. I
18 firmly believe that Maine can do that even by
19 allowing a mining company to develop new resource
20 extraction opportunities, operating under
21 established, extremely rigid and
22 environmentally-friendly laws of our state. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

25 MS. ARBO: Up next is Dwayne Tomah followed by

1 Mali Obomsawin and if Arleigh Kraus could come
2 forward, please.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
4 Dwayne Tomah from the Passamaquoddy Tribe. First
5 and foremost it's an honor for me to be here with
6 you this evening to be able to share some historical
7 components regarding this type of measure that's
8 being put forward here. Let me put it into context
9 for you. We have inhabited this region for over
10 12,000 years according to archeologists. We have a
11 deep connection to our Mother. And when I say our
12 Mother I'm talking about your Mother as well. She's
13 hurting. She's in danger, in serious danger. Our
14 people have been saying this for thousands of years
15 in how we treat our Mother. We have economic
16 ventures that people are trying to take us on and we
17 don't want to be part of that venture. It's all
18 economically based and driven by economies and
19 money. Start taking a look at how we treat our
20 Mother. When you start affecting the water you
21 start affecting each other. What you do to the
22 water you do to every one of these people here.
23 What you do to the fish you do to everybody here.
24 What you do to the salmon you do to everything.
25 We're all affected because we're all connected.

1 Let's not allow this to disconnect us to our Mother
2 and to our long-term effects. In our territory we
3 look in 7 generations. Think about 7 generations
4 and the impacts of mining on our Mother, taking from
5 our Mother. Think about that long term and how it's
6 going to affect us. Don't let the economy drive
7 this. Our Mother is sacred. Let's look at her in
8 those -- in that context. She is sacred. She will
9 provide for us. We've got to look out for her
10 because she will look out for us. Thank you very
11 much for allowing me to speak this evening and
12 hopefully that we can Ma-look-a-deena (phonetic).
13 In our language Ma-look-a-denna. The first language
14 of this land; Ma-look-a-denna is let's work
15 together. Thank you.

16 MS. ARBO: Up next is Mali Obomsawin followed
17 by Arleigh Kraus and if Kate Follansbee could come
18 forward, please.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello --

20 MR. WORCESTER: Just give me a second. We have
21 a long-standing policy not to allow signs at the
22 public hearings, so please don't show your signs.
23 Thank you.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Mali Obomsawin and
25 I'm an Abenaki environmentalist from Old Town

1 working in land and water justice across the state.
2 I also run a conservation land trust. I have a deep
3 relationship with the watersheds of Maine, the
4 Katahdin region and I have been fighting against the
5 pollution of Maine's waterways for years. As
6 indigenous people we are keenly familiar with the
7 process of being misled and lied to by cooperations.
8 We are not falling for Wolfden's glad-handing and
9 empty promises about labor opportunities and Maine's
10 economy. We can see that any economic benefit of
11 mining in Patten would be short-lived and far
12 outweighed by the environmental consequences that
13 would reverberate throughout the state. Metallic
14 mining poses profound environmental risks to water
15 systems. This rezoning proposal affects the
16 headwater tributaries of the Penobscot, mind you,
17 the largest watershed in Maine and the Mattawamkeag
18 Rivers both of which are designated for sustenance
19 fishing use for Wabanaki Nation. The Penobscot
20 River is also home to one of the most celebrated
21 restoration projects in the entire nation and
22 Wolfden's mine threatens to undo decades of those
23 efforts to restore the health of the river and its
24 sea-run fish. If the LUPC approves this mining
25 project you will be liable for reversing one of the

1 highest studies cases of river restoration in the
2 world. On your website it states that your
3 commission was created to -- and I quote -- preserve
4 public health, safety and general welfare, support
5 and encourage Maine's natural resource-based economy
6 and strong environmental protection, prevent
7 commercial and industrial uses detrimental to the
8 long-term health, use and value of these areas and
9 to Maine's natural resource-based economy, prevent
10 the despoliation, pollution and detrimental uses of
11 the waters in these areas and conserve ecological
12 and natural values. Please uphold the principles
13 your commission was founded under and do not allow
14 this land to be rezoned for mining operations.
15 Please don't let this application go on to pass
16 before the DEP. Any decision that we make now will
17 live on far beyond today and we must remember that
18 we answer to our children and our grandchildren for
19 environmental choices that we make.

20 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

21 MS. ARBO: Up next is Arleigh Kraus followed by
22 Kate Follansbee and if Angie Reed could come
23 forward, please.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
25 Arleigh Kraus and I'm from Warren. I have been

1 consumed with the question of opening Maine to
2 metallic mining. I've decided the best thing I can
3 do is speak from my heart today. I live in Warren
4 and my town along with Union and Hope are going
5 through a very similar dilemma as the Pickett
6 Mountain Community. A Junior Canadian exploratory
7 mining company named Exiro has been trying to get a
8 foothold in our town since 2023 to explore for
9 nickel primarily. The proposed mine being similar
10 in construction to the proposed Wolfden site. Our
11 communities are faced with the same issues of
12 sulfuric rock and subsequent formation of acid mine
13 runoff entering the watershed which the mine would
14 be in. We are being promised jobs for our locals,
15 improvements to roads, money in our communities. We
16 are being promised that there will be no pollution,
17 the tailings will be dry stacked and safe and that
18 the ore will be processed onsite or off they cannot,
19 will not specify which. We have been told
20 conflicting stories that the mining company will
21 only explore and hand off the site to a larger
22 company or Exiro will mine themselves even though
23 they have no experience of actual mining processes.
24 Does this sound familiar? We have been told that
25 they have state-of-the-art technology which

1 guarantees acid mine leaching will not occur and
2 poison the St. George River watershed. Technology
3 unproven. Their argument is just an attempt for
4 fancy jargon and suck community members in who are
5 desperate for jobs and money for their families.
6 They have given no real answers to our specific
7 concerns. I was asked by the community if I would
8 consider selling the rights to the minerals under my
9 family farm. Did I pause? I did. Honestly I did.
10 I'm a single mother with 3 children in an economy
11 that's getting worse and worse. I'm self-employed
12 with enormous bills looming and student loans from
13 my degree in biochemistry I'm not sure I'll ever be
14 able to pay off. My answer, however, was no. There
15 are no safe ways to mine metallic minerals
16 especially in such a wet environment as the State of
17 Maine. Ask any farmer across the state and they
18 will tell you that this has been the wettest season
19 in decades. I want a future for my children and a
20 future for the children of Maine. For this to
21 happen we need clean water, we need farmland that is
22 not contaminated by heavy metals or acidic runoff.
23 The towns of Warren, Union and Hope banded together
24 and a group of citizens from the town formed CARMA;
25 Citizens Against Residential Mining Activities of

1 which I am a board member. We have educated
2 ourselves. We have called on experts in tailings,
3 hydro-geology, metallic mining to learn all sides of
4 what mining the State of Maine means and we have
5 said no. I will be submitting my written testimony.
6 Thank you. I appreciate your time.

7 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

8 MS. ARBO: Up next is Kate Follansbee followed
9 by Angie Reed and if Scarlet Labbe-Watson could come
10 up front, please.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Kate
12 Follansbee. I'm a resident of Orono and I represent
13 myself. I ask you tonight to deny Wolfden's request
14 for rezoning. If I were hiring someone and they
15 submitted an application covered in errors I would
16 not hire them. If I were hiring someone and they
17 had absolutely no experience doing a highly
18 sensitive job I would not hire them. If I were
19 hiring someone and they made disparaging comments
20 about indigenous people I would not hire them. If I
21 were hiring someone and they withheld critical
22 information about how they would do a job safely I
23 would not hire them. Why do we have lower standards
24 for our natural resources and our home? Thank you.

25 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

1 MS. ARBO: Up next is Angie Reed followed by
2 Scarlet Labbe-Watson and if Laura Hepner could come
3 up front, please.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Angie Reed. I'm a
5 resident of Linneus, Maine. I'm representing
6 myself. I got my undergraduate degree in water
7 resources management at the University of New
8 Hampshire and my master's degree in stream ecology
9 from Colorado State University. After that I moved
10 to Maine back to the northeast. I'm originally from
11 New Hampshire. I had the honor of working for the
12 Houlton Band of Maliseets Indians as their water
13 resources specialist. From there I actually worked
14 for many -- for and with many sovereign native
15 nations across the country with the River
16 Conservation Organization and then I came back to
17 work for Penobscot Indian Nation and I've been doing
18 so for 20 years. I've lived in Aroostook County for
19 25 years. I'm not a local, but I know what it's
20 like to live up an area where there's not a lot of
21 jobs especially for somebody with my training.
22 So -- but I love where I live. I actually heard an
23 organic farmer up there say once if you could -- if
24 it was possible to find a soulmate in a plot of
25 land, he found it. And I thought, yep. That's

1 exactly how I feel about living on my little 40-acre
2 lot in Linneus, Maine. So, I love my work. I love
3 where I live. I actually paddle a lot on the
4 Mattawamkeag River west branch on which this will be
5 if it is passed and done, but I decided to stay
6 where I lived and didn't move and I commuted for 16
7 years 4 days a week down to the Penobscot Nation.
8 It's been an honor to do the work that I do.
9 Unfortunately, I've seen a lot of this kind of
10 impact throughout the country. Mining -- we used to
11 think that the applying sludge to farmlands in this
12 state was okay and now we're learning it's not.
13 It's a pattern over and over again that we think
14 things are fine, but they're actually not until they
15 are not. And I did the stats before I came here and
16 I thought, okay. What is 273 jobs? The population
17 of Aroostook County is 66-something thousand. 273
18 jobs is like less than 1 percent of the entire
19 population. So I'm here to say I don't actually
20 think it's worth the risk. I understand that we
21 need jobs. I'm not sure they provide enough and I
22 don't think this area of Aroostook County should be
23 the guinea pig for people who say they can do
24 things, but have not been proven to this day. Thank
25 you for listening.

1 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

2 MS. ARBO: Up next is Scarlet Labbe-Watson
3 followed by Laura Hepner and if Katia Westcott could
4 come forward.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Scarlet
6 Labbe-Watson. I'm a Rockland resident and I'm 17
7 years old. I want to grow up in a clean and healthy
8 environment. I want to be able to grow and learn
9 with a community of supportive people who have my
10 best interest at heart. I want to be able to
11 continue to paddle and sail and hike and climb which
12 I've been doing since I was born. I don't think
13 that this mining operation will provide that. I
14 don't think that it will support a clean and healthy
15 environment for my future and my generation's future
16 and I don't think it will provide lasting economic
17 benefit. As we've heard in the proposal this mine
18 is only proposed to last 10 to 15 years and it would
19 take 2 years to make and 2 years to clean up.
20 That's a lot of financial burden to incur on the
21 local community. They are creating a large mine and
22 that takes a lot of resources and that mine will
23 only be in operation for, approximately, 10 years
24 and that's not enough time to make it worth it.
25 Even if we were looking at it from an solely

1 economic perspective it would not make economic
2 sense. It doesn't make sense from an environmental
3 standpoint. It doesn't make sense from an economic
4 standpoint and I don't think it makes sense from a
5 humanitarian standpoint because mining is not good
6 for people's health. We know this. It does not
7 benefit them to work in underground conditions with
8 particles in the air and it does not benefit them to
9 drink contaminated water. We're having a PFAS
10 crisis already and I don't want to add more
11 contaminants to the list of pollutants we're already
12 worried about consuming. So I wish that you would
13 not allow this pass, not pass the rezoning law
14 because it's not good for my future, it's not good
15 for my generation's future and it's not good for the
16 future of the people in that area. Thank you.

17 MS. ARBO: Up next is Laura Hepner followed by
18 Katia Westcott and if Bruce Taylor could come up to
19 the front, please.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Laura. I'm 15 years old
21 and live in Waldo, Maine. I am representing myself
22 tonight. I'm here opposing the mine because of my
23 connection to nature and my passion to work against
24 climate change and anything that will cause
25 environmental harm to the water, soil and to air. I

1 came to care about the environment from growing up
2 in the beautiful land that what is now called Maine.
3 I am a birder and it's impossible for me to
4 appreciate the birds without appreciating the
5 increasing number of challenges they face with the
6 degradation of their habitat and I do not think we
7 need to add, yet, another obstacle in the form of
8 this mine. Please protect the water, soil, air,
9 plants and birds for my generation, future
10 generations and the wellbeing of the earth. Thank
11 you.

12 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

13 MS. ARBO: Up next is Katia Westcott followed
14 by Bruce Taylor and if Diane Oltarzewski could come
15 to the front, please.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Katia
17 Westcott. I'm actually pursuing my master's for
18 environmental policy and management so this is
19 actually something I have a lot interest with. I'm
20 in opposition with the zinc mineral mining proposed
21 by Wolfden and that rezoning should not move forward
22 to the next phase of permitting. In my
23 understanding based on research the uncertainty of
24 concerns for pollutants entering the groundwater,
25 the impact on natural resources is far reached based

1 on Maine Ruling Chapter 200. The claims for
2 remedial actions reflect inconclusive and display
3 inconsistency based on their claims posed for
4 preventative measures. The unfamiliar practice of
5 mining nearby waterways and the point of exposures
6 is clear that this will in fact will cause
7 environmental adverse effects in the surrounding
8 areas. This violates the precautionary principles
9 and defines a legal approach to innovations with the
10 potential for causing harm when extensive scientific
11 knowledge on the matter is lacking. It has
12 mentioned that treating the wastewater effluent
13 discharge by implementing reverse osmosis water
14 treatment is a very expensive procedure and
15 preserving of water quality it takes billions of
16 waters (sic) in the ore extraction method and the
17 capacity of (inaudible) will be an expensive process
18 in turn. The incentive of Maine's stringent water
19 standard is very rigorous and I believe that Wolfden
20 does not understand the cleanliness that is required
21 in the State of Maine. And with no experience in
22 this degree of management practices the chemical of
23 concern other than acid mine drainage is PFAS. The
24 storm-water discharges from metal mining or ore
25 mining of interest the industrial activities such as

1 geological location, topography, hydrology and the
2 extent of impervious surfaces the extent of
3 extraction is undermined. The mining application
4 extraction of ore and minerals involved acid
5 suppressing and wetting agents, hydrocarbon,
6 fluorinated suffocates and the ore floating in
7 pipes, cables, hoses and conveyor belts the PFAS is
8 definitely overlooked in lieu of the prophecy of
9 extracting the ores from these mines. So in other
10 words I would like you guys to not allow Wolfden to
11 do their exploration here in the State of Maine.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

14 MS. ARBO: Up next is Bruce Taylor followed by
15 Diane Oltarzewski and if Rudy Rawcliffe could come
16 forward, please.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Bruce Taylor from
18 the Town of Sweden. I'm also the guy who can't turn
19 off his telephone. Sorry. As a physician who had
20 been involved in metals in many ways both in the
21 civil and military medicine I'm very concerned about
22 the toxic health effects of metals. I'm very
23 concerned about this problem which is ignored in the
24 application before you. As you know the Land Use
25 Plan that -- there should not be any overriding

1 conflict with public values that require protection.
2 I think this fails. And also I think the submission
3 fails because the DEP subdistricts require that
4 there be no negative impacts on public health. If
5 you look at this application they really don't talk
6 about monitoring and assessment and reaction to
7 discharges in the air or water after they occur;
8 which they will occur. And very concerningly if you
9 look at the section on health conditions and risk
10 factors Page 331 it's grossly inadequate, although
11 they do address things as obesity, smoking, colon
12 cancer in adults that very important they totally
13 ignored factors related to metal and particulates
14 exposure. No data was analyzed or collected for
15 premature delivers, small or low birth weights,
16 respiratory distress such as asthma which is
17 important when you're dealing with particulate
18 matter which is generated from mining operations.
19 And a very critical problem when you're dealing with
20 toxic metals is neurodevelopmental. Also, they did
21 not at all cover facilities -- I think this is
22 important. It shows their ignorance. No facilities
23 or data was provided on special education in the
24 areas or facilities for autism. As we know the
25 child -- the developing fetus is at great risk for

1 particulate matter. In fact, the University of
2 Arizona Institute for Environmental Engineering
3 found that particulate matter from mining includes
4 metal that goes a long distance and gets into the
5 water and into the bio and then to the bodies.
6 There is no safe levels of lead and it has been
7 found that children do poor in school the closer
8 they are -- on neurodevelopment tests, rather -- the
9 closer they are to mining. And if you look at
10 Callahan Corporation Mine in Brooksville the waters
11 of Goose Bay after more than 50 years of closure you
12 can still not -- you can still not harvest shellfish
13 and we're still paying for that -- taxpayers are
14 paying for that through the Department of
15 Environmental Protection funds. I'm all for -- as a
16 physician and being in the military I've used metals
17 in many different ways. It's important for our
18 economic security and our national security, but
19 this application fails in many ways. Thank you very
20 much.

21 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

22 MS. ARBO: Up next is Diane Oltarzewski
23 followed by Rudy Rawcliffe and if Stephanie Martinez
24 could come to the front, please.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is

1 Diane Oltarzewski. I live in Belfast and I'm
2 speaking for myself. Like so much of Maine Pickett
3 Mountain is a natural treasure with clean water and
4 abundant fish species so necessary to the Wabanaki
5 people and to all Mainers. Class A waters are what
6 we want in our state and we all need to work to
7 preserve them because they are so irreplaceable. I
8 recently spent a week in Bern, Switzerland where I
9 was amazed and delighted by the Aare River which
10 flows right through the city, a pure azure color
11 clear to the bottom full of people swimming and
12 kayaking right in the middle of city. It is
13 astounding to me that we might not want to preserve
14 the very same natural beauty and pristine conditions
15 they enjoy over there right here in Maine. We know
16 what to expect if this commission rezones to green
17 light Wolfden's extraction. People and animals will
18 be sickened, their lives drastically shortened,
19 their progeny genetically affected. Unlined
20 tailings ponds will kill birds and seep into
21 groundwater. Way down the road someone will blow
22 the whistle and a cleanup will commence as if that
23 were fully possible. You know as well as I do any
24 cleanup will land squarely on the shoulders of
25 Maine's taxpayers and will only contribute to the

1 despair young people feel about our environment. As
2 many testimonies have already established Wolfden
3 has no track record of living up to its promises. I
4 think the promise of monitoring in perpetuity rings
5 very hollowly on many ears here, particularly
6 indigenous ears. We don't want them here. We don't
7 want mining in Maine because of the inevitable risk
8 of destructive effects. Please do not rezone the
9 area and please do not allow this company to
10 proceed. Thank you.

11 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

12 MS. ARBO: Up next is Rudy Rawcliffe followed
13 by Stephanie Martinez and if Dana Colihan can come
14 up front, please.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. I'm Rudy Rawcliffe. My
16 wife told me that in 3 minutes I can't even
17 introduce myself in 3 minutes so this is going to be
18 tough. I was born in Hampden. I live in
19 Winterport. For the last 27 years I owned a
20 geological consulting business NGS Incorporated here
21 in Bangor with my business partner Mike Scully who
22 is here also. And I'm here to urge the commission
23 to approve Wolfden's rezoning request. Let me
24 explain. First of all, a few days ago my partner
25 Michael sent me a thing from the Audubon Society --

1 he's a member -- and they were urging him to come
2 here to speak out against their request. And I
3 said: Michael. Do they know you're a geologist and
4 do they know that you actual did your master's
5 degree on that deposit? And he said: No. And I
6 said: I don't think they're going to want to hear
7 you have to say. And he said: Yes, that's probably
8 true so you say it; so that's why I'm here. I
9 graduated from the University of Maine back in 1977.
10 The first job I got was working in northern Maine as
11 an exploration geologist. At that time there had
12 been a discovery up west of Ashland, the Bald
13 Mountain deposit. It initiated a huge exploration
14 effort in northern Maine and I go on to that and got
15 a very good job with a company here in Bangor LA
16 Wing and Associates and worked up there. One of the
17 first places we explored was the T6/R6 now called
18 the Pickett Mountain Deposit; and let me explain how
19 we found that. It's pretty simple, really. We'd go
20 out and take soil samples. We'd walk through the
21 woods with a compass and paste and take a soil
22 sample and then send that to be analyzed and they
23 analyzed it for copper, lead and zinc which were the
24 metals we were searching for along with gold and
25 silver. And typically the lab would come back and

1 the reports would be about 5 or 10 parts per
2 million. Well, Sample Number 201 -- which I'd like
3 to say I took -- that came back extraordinarily
4 high. It was like in the 15 thousand parts per
5 million and that led to the discovery of that
6 deposit. 30 seconds left? What I'm going to say to
7 you that I had -- for the next 10 years -- a good
8 job in northern Maine. It paid well and we lived in
9 Patten.

10 MR. WORCESTER: Please wrap it up.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just wanted to say that we
12 had a million dollar budget. A lot of that went to
13 the local economy; Bud Bell's IGA. We rented
14 houses. We hired --

15 MR. WORCESTER: Time is up.

16 MS. ARBO: Up next is Stephanie Martinez
17 followed by Dana Colihan and if Luca Hamina could
18 come forward, please.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm, you know, it may be a
20 function of my privilege, it's, like, do I come up
21 here tonight? Do I come and rally? Do I come and
22 speak to you? Why are we constantly up against 2
23 choices; one short-term profit and the other mostly
24 at the expense of -- as everyone has said so far --
25 mostly -- future generations. Do you all have

1 children? I see a lot of older folks here. Do you
2 have children? Yeah. Do you have grandchildren,
3 too?

4 MR. WORCESTER: You're wasting your time,
5 Ma'am.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just wanted to be sure that
7 you could hear me and every single other person here
8 asking you to deny this proposal and that you're
9 thinking about the future generations and the
10 communities that you are meant to serve and also
11 listen to in here. That's all I want to say. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

14 MS. ARBO: Up next we have Dana Colihan
15 followed by Luca Hamina and if David Marceau could
16 please come forward.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
18 Dana Colihan. I am co-executive director of Sling
19 Shot. We believe everyone has the right to breathe
20 clean air, drink clean water and live in healthy
21 vibrant communities which is why I urge you to
22 reject Wolfden's second rezoning proposal for the
23 Pickett Mountain. Sling Shot is an environmental
24 and justice organization working along side
25 communities most impacted by environmental health,

1 threats to take aim at polluters and build community
2 power. Through this work we've witnessed the real
3 threat that metallic mineral mining can pose to our
4 community's environment. We've worked alongside
5 residents to stop Wolfden in Pembroke and it's time
6 to do it again here. We urge the LUPC to reject
7 Wolfden's proposal for main reasons. Number 1:
8 Mining threatens our waters. Wolfden's rezoning
9 petition seeks to allow sulfide mining for zinc,
10 copper and other metals as we've heard tonight.
11 When sulfide ores are exposed to air and water this
12 process can result in the creation of sulfuric acid.
13 This acid is dangerous in and of itself, but also
14 leaches out toxic heavy metals which are harmful to
15 fish, people and animals. A spill could devastate
16 our surface and groundwater releasing cancer-causing
17 toxins into the environment. This is of particular
18 concern as the proposed mine would sit at the
19 headwaters of the tributaries of the Penobscot
20 River. Number 2: Mining threatens our air.
21 Wolfden states that there will be 55 truck trips
22 carrying ore from the mine each day each with a load
23 of 48,000 pounds of ore. Wolfden has not explained
24 how it would prevent this acid-generating ore dust
25 from escaping the truck, being deposited along the

1 route and from being blown even further away. Dust
2 can bury deep into our lungs creating respiratory
3 problems and irritating already existing conditions
4 such as asthma. Wolfden boast that this proposal
5 can add 300 jobs to the region, but are these really
6 the jobs that we want for Mainers? NIOSH, the
7 National Institute for Occupational Safety and
8 Health, explains that exposure to airborne dust puts
9 miners at increased risk of developing lung diseases
10 as well as dying from lung cancer. This risk
11 increases even more when miners experience exposure
12 to exhaust from diesel engines for 5 or more years
13 and diesel is a known carcinogen. Number 3: The
14 proposed mine threatens areas of cultural and
15 spiritual significance to the Penobscot and the
16 Houlton Band of Maliseets. Both tribal nations use
17 this area of sustenance fishing, hunting and
18 gathering as well as cultural and ceremonial
19 purposes, yet at every turn Wolfden has shown
20 disregard to Maine tribal nations. At a time when
21 there has been significant bipartisan support for
22 the legislature to restore full tribal sovereignty
23 we should not approve a petition that would further
24 environmental injustice. For these reasons, the
25 threats to our air, the threat to our waters and the

1 threat to the Wabanaki Nation I urge the commission
2 to deny Wolfden's rezoning petition. Thank you for
3 taking action to protect our communities as well as
4 this land that is sacred to the Wabanaki Nation and
5 special for all Mainers.

6 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

7 MS. ARBO: Up next is Luca Hamina followed by
8 David Marceau and if Kelly Merrill could come
9 forward, please.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Luca
11 Hamina and I'm both an Orono resident and a student
12 at the University of Maine and I'm here today to
13 state my opposition to rezoning Pickett Mountain.
14 It's goes without saying that Maine is well known
15 for its natural beauty. We're the vacation state
16 after all. The proposed mine would threaten this
17 natural beauty and through that any industry
18 centered around hiking, camping and fish. This
19 potential harm to the ecosystem is not the only
20 concern I have. I'm also concerned about Wolfden
21 Resources specifically and more importantly their
22 ability to adequately protect and respect the
23 environment the way that Maine requires. Wolfden
24 Resources has little experience running mining
25 projects in Canada, having never dug their own mine

1 instead acquiring already begun mining projects from
2 other companies according to the Conservation Law
3 Foundation. This lack of experience in their home
4 country seems dubious at best for their first and
5 only mining operation in the United States. Along
6 with this their current CEO, Ron Little, has
7 overseen certain mining operations from a different
8 Canadian company while working in Burkina Faso. The
9 situation there in Burkina Faso was labeled an
10 environmental justice failure by the Environmental
11 Justice Act as the action by the company in
12 Question, Orezone, lead to the displacement of
13 thousands of villagers and the ruining of
14 livelihoods by destruction and restriction to access
15 to the local environment. Just like the regard for
16 Native people's relationship with their environment
17 in Burkina Faso seems to set a precedent for how
18 they will be treating the concerns of the indigenous
19 people here in Maine given interview comments where
20 Ron Little praises Maine's lack of laws protecting
21 indigenous rights so that Wolfden Resources can have
22 an easier time setting up Pickett Mountain Mine in
23 land which is culturally significant to the
24 Wabanaki. If this is how Wolfden views running a
25 mining company; coming in, damaging the environment,

1 paying little regard to the local people and making
2 it harder for individuals to utilize their natural
3 resources then him and Wolfden Resources have no
4 place in the State of Maine. Thank you very much.

5 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

6 MS. ARBO: Up next is David Marceau followed by
7 Kelly Merrill and if Dianne Wilkins could come
8 forward, please.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
10 David Marceau. I'm 67 years old. I've lived most
11 of my life in the state of Maine. I'm a resident
12 for the Town of Searsmont and I know some of these
13 folks here. I'm a soil scientist and wetlands
14 scientist. I've been involved in many difficult
15 projects around the state. I think that if possible
16 the commission members and people that have a vote
17 in this rezoning should seriously consider the folks
18 who live handy to this project and give them more
19 high value as opposed to folks who live down state
20 because they're the folks that are going to have to
21 live with it in their backyard. I think that a lot
22 the materials; zinc, copper and other materials that
23 will be mined out of this are used by us every day;
24 in our cell phones, in our cars, in our televisions
25 and all these kinds of things I think you seriously

1 need to consider where those things come from. And
2 unless we're willing to put those things away, then
3 we're going to need these resources and somehow get
4 them mined from somewhere. Thank you.

5 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

6 MS. ARBO: Up next we have Kelly Merrill
7 followed by Dianne Wilkins and if Robert McNealy
8 could come forward, please.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, members of the
10 Land Use Planning Commission and esteemed tribal and
11 community members. My name is Kelly Merrill and I'm
12 here to speak as a steering committee member of the
13 Maine Green Independent Party and I've been
14 authorized to issue a statement on their behalf. We
15 stand in solidarity with the Houlton Band of
16 Maliseets, the Penobscot Nation and other
17 interveners in opposing the proposed metallic mine
18 at Pickett Mountain and protecting the lands and
19 waters for today and future generations. We
20 strenuously urge you to deny Wolfden's current
21 application and any future application to rezone for
22 the purposes of metallic mining. Recent years
23 environmental rollbacks around mining have made the
24 wilderness vulnerable. The proposed mine will harm
25 subsistence hunting, fishing, forging and Wabanaki

1 culture. It will irreparably and irrevocably harm
2 the land the waters that surround it and life within
3 it including endangered Atlantic Salmon and brook
4 trout. It would prevent a nature resource-based
5 economy. The EPA calls metallic mining the most
6 polluting industry in North America. Wolfden will
7 be no exception. There has never been a sulfide
8 mine that hasn't contaminated surrounding
9 groundwater. In fact, mines from the '70s are still
10 leaching contaminants into the water today. Wolfden
11 and its investors are responsible for mercury
12 contamination and Clean Water Act violations
13 numbering in the thousands contaminating land and
14 water for present and future generations. We know
15 this process leaches mercury and arsenic into our
16 land and water. Further, it would introduce
17 millions of pounds of cyanide into the pristine
18 wilderness near critical waterways and tribal trust
19 land. Should cleanup be required Wolfden has only
20 committed to what amounts of 2 percent of the
21 anticipated profits to remediation. The company
22 would then be free to walk away after causing
23 irreparable damage and there's no amount of money
24 that will undo that. We should refuse to allow
25 profit-grabbing extractors from desecrating this

1 land. We urge you to deny Wolfden this application
2 to mine Pickett Mountain. Thank you for allowing me
3 to speak.

4 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

5 MS. ARBO: Up next Dianne Wilkins followed by
6 Robert McNealy and if Jeff Reardon could come
7 forward, please.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. I'm Dianne Wilkins.
9 I'm from Falmouth and I'm representing myself.
10 First I'd like to say that after hearing all the
11 expert testimony I've learned a lot. Most
12 importantly is that this mining company would have
13 to be extra, extra, extraordinary at a supreme
14 level. And even if it was water contamination is
15 pretty much certain. My roots are deep in Northern
16 Maine. My family was deported from the original
17 Acadia by the Brits during the Revolutionary War and
18 came to St. John Valley and survived due to the
19 abundance of water, fish and game. My grandparents
20 with 13 children were able to be self-reliant and
21 resilient against the Great Depression and other
22 economic downturns because the earth provided game,
23 fish, water and healthy land for crops. Every year
24 my dad would join my uncles and cousins to hunt and
25 fish and then they'd share their abundant blessings

1 with my family, elderly neighbors and others in need
2 within their community. This same self reliance and
3 resiliency in the face of economic uncertainty is
4 not only practiced by my relatives, but continues to
5 be a proud Maine way of life. Even now hunting and
6 fishing provides many, many in Northern Maine with
7 year-round supply of food. If the waters are
8 poisoned causing fish and game to disappear the
9 Maine resilient way of life will no longer be an
10 option, but forever destroyed. Please don't accept
11 these short-terms gains and deprive generations and
12 generations of resiliency and self reliance. I urge
13 you to deny the rezoning proposal. Thank you.

14 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

15 MS. ARBO: Up next is Robert McNealy followed
16 by Jeff Reardon and if Nicole Grohoski could come to
17 the front, please.

18 MR. WORCESTER: Do you want to read those names
19 again, please.

20 MS. ARBO: Up next is Robert McNealy followed
21 by Jeff Reardon and then Nicole Grohoski. If you
22 guys all want to come up front and be ready. So, no
23 Robert McNealy? Okay. We will move to Jeff
24 Reardon.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is

1 Jeff Reardon and I'm speaking tonight on behalf of
2 the Atlantic salmon Federation for whom I work in
3 opposition to the rezoning petition. It will
4 surprise none of you that I'm going to talk about
5 the impacts of Salmon and brook trout. Our mission
6 is the conservation and protection of wild Atlantic
7 salmon and ecosystems on which they depend. The
8 Mattawamkeag watershed is at the center of our work
9 in Maine. NOAA's 2009 biological evaluation of
10 Atlantic salmon habitat under the Endangered Species
11 Act included the west branch Mattawamkeag watershed
12 with the designated critical habitat for endangered
13 salmon with 11,290 units of juvenile rearing habitat
14 for salmon assessed as currently occupied within its
15 watershed. For context that's about 1.7 Narraguagus
16 Rivers in the entire west branch. 402 of those
17 units the portion of the watershed upstream of on
18 Rockabema Lake could be directly impacted by
19 Wolfden's mine. I'm going to skip down to my
20 conclusion because I suspect I won't get there if I
21 just talk through this. I want to talk about the
22 standard of review that you have in front of you.
23 The Comprehension Land Use Plan establishes a goal
24 that you allow mining, quote, where there are not
25 overriding conflicting public values which require

1 protection. Chapter 10 Rules require you make a
2 finding that the proposed development will be,
3 quote, not detrimental to other values established
4 in the club. In this application Wolfden has both
5 substantially misrepresented the existing character
6 and quality of the fisheries resources that are
7 potentially impacted and it asks you to assume
8 without evidence that there's no impact on them.
9 The Atlantic Salmon Federation, therefore, urges you
10 to reject the petition. I want to come back and
11 talk about those resources a little bit. We're very
12 disappointed to see that Wolfden -- although they
13 have acknowledged that there is designated critical
14 salmon habitat -- has paid so little attention to it
15 in its application. Wolfden did not consult with
16 any agency that manages Atlantic salmon in Maine
17 about the potential impacts on salmon. They
18 acknowledge that the waters are a designated
19 habitat, but ask you to assume that their, quote,
20 water management strategy will ensure no adverse
21 impacts to surface waters. That's literally the
22 full sentence of their assessment. Wolfden
23 incorrectly claimed that the streams from the
24 project are unlikely to provide suitable habitat for
25 Atlantic Salmon. If they look at any of the various

1 online mapping sources that are out there they'd see
2 that the stream that drain directly from their
3 projects site are designated as Class 1 rearing
4 habitat for salmon, the highest possible
5 classification. I think with represent to brook
6 trout their misrepresentations are even larger.
7 They did consult with IF&W who told them that the
8 regional fishery staff, quote, considered Pleasant
9 Lake to be some of the brook trout and landlocked
10 salmon habitat waters available in the region.
11 Wolfdon's description of those waters citing 2, 1950
12 studies is that they are -- and I quote -- shallow,
13 mud bottom, warm and not supportive of cold-water
14 fisheries. Again, look at your standard and reject
15 this petition. I appreciate your time.

16 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

17 MS. ARBO: Up next Nicole Grohoski followed by
18 Al Larson and if Victoria Markiewicz could come
19 forward, please.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi there, everyone. Good
21 evening. My name is Nicole Grohoski. I represent
22 Senate District 7 in the Maine Legislature serving
23 most of Hancock County. I live in Ellsworth and
24 have a degree in environmental chemistry. I want to
25 thank you for hosting this additional hearing and

1 recognizing that this rezoning is indeed a matter of
2 statewide interest. I see 4 reasons why this
3 application has generated so much interest and why
4 role is so important, more important than any role
5 the Department of Environmental Protection would
6 play in a Chapter 200 review. First, the proposed
7 mine would be in the Katahdin region, an area that
8 is cherished by Mainers and has deep cultural and
9 historic significance for the Wabanaki Tribes. The
10 level of concern you have seen tonight must be taken
11 seriously. Second, Maine taxpayers should be
12 worried about getting stuck with cleanup costs in
13 the event of an accident or bankruptcy, both of
14 which are common with mines. Look, for instance, at
15 the Callahan Mine in Brooksville which is in my
16 district. Waste from this zinc/copper mine
17 contaminated drinking water wells and habitats.
18 Contaminates found in the nearby residential
19 neighborhood include, arsenic, PCBs and lead. The
20 mine was only lined open for 4 years from 1968 to
21 1972 and the long-term consequences of this
22 operation are still being addressed over 50 years
23 later. This super fun site has cost Maine taxpayers
24 tens of millions of dollars in cleanup since 2004
25 when remediation began and it is not over yet.

1 Wolfden's application fails to account for the cost
2 of a possible catastrophic failure like we've seen
3 in Brooksville. We usually only find out how
4 devastating a particular mining technology and
5 operation is after it's too late. Third, the mine
6 will be located in Maine's largest watershed.
7 Mining pollution upstream could affect the health
8 and wellbeing of those living downstream including
9 people in my district. And fourth, this application
10 has statewide significance because it could be the
11 first step in turning Maine into a mining state as
12 Wolfden has made it clear that he wants to do. Does
13 Maine really want to become a mining state? With
14 their wet climate, clean waters and strong
15 environmental ethics Maine is not a good fit. This
16 would be a very risky future especially for a
17 company like Wolfden's that has never built a mine.
18 I urge you to take these statewide factors into
19 account. Please listen to the people of Maine and
20 the Wabanaki. Protect our taxpayers. Protect the
21 Penobscot watershed and the health of its
22 inhabitants and tell Wolfden that Maine is not their
23 mining playground. You have a unique responsibility
24 for zoning in Maine's unorganized territories. You
25 are their gatekeepers. Not DEP. Please stop this

1 proposal at the gate by denying this application.

2 Do not punt responsibility to the DEP which,
3 frankly, does not have enough staff for the
4 important work that is already on their plate.

5 Thank you again for your time and consideration.

6 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

7 MS. ARBO: Up next is Al Larson followed by
8 Victoria Markiewicz and if Lokotah Sanborn could
9 come to the front, please.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Al Larson from Orono and
11 I'm here by myself. A Wolfden Resources mine is a
12 bad idea for Maine. We have environmental problems
13 already present in our state and we don't need to
14 add to them. We are already dealing with toxic
15 waste, biodiversity losses, introduce pests and
16 climate change, but by far the potential damage from
17 toxic waste runoff residues from metal mining.

18 Wolfden has never operated a mine before so I doubt
19 that their financial backing is deep enough to cover
20 the recovery costs when it's no longer profitable
21 for it to operate. Have they purchased a bond with
22 a separate bond holding company to cover the mine's
23 cleanup costs? Many times many mines have been
24 under-bonded with eventual cleanup costs that have
25 been far more than the value of the bond. Who pays

1 for that extra cost? If Wolfden is successful in
2 getting a zoning change passed and uses that to
3 enable a sale of the mine the apparent likelihood is
4 for a Kinross takeover. Kinross has a horrible
5 record of many violations in Washington State and is
6 hardly a good example of a reliable company to
7 continue the mining operation. If not Kinross than
8 some other large mining enterprise would take over.
9 Businesses exist to make money for their
10 stockholders and one of the bedrock rules is to not
11 spend money needlessly. Their obligation is to
12 those stockholders, not to be attentive to moral
13 obligations. Even if the mine were to be made
14 operational eventually it would cease operation. It
15 would then be needed to close down. Mining cleanup
16 costs are typically based on an estimate provided by
17 the mining company itself. There are many cases
18 where these cleanup costs were up to 100 times the
19 mining company estimate. It's an unfortunate fact
20 that this no cheap way to close up a mine. Even
21 larger companies can start up with the best of
22 intentions may change their policy when they realize
23 that they original estimates for cleanup are
24 insufficient to cover the expense. Instead of being
25 asked to do the impossible they may back out of

1 those attempts and wait for the government or the
2 public to take over like the Super Fund. The
3 current policy of hard rock mining companies towards
4 environmental damage is to clean up and restore the
5 mined area only after the mine has been shut down.
6 They assume what is called walk-away restoration
7 will be enough. This could be the re-sloping of a
8 disturbed area to prevent erosion, putting a layer
9 of topsoil to stimulate re-vegetation or treating
10 the flowage of water out of the mined area leaving
11 water quality standards violated. It becomes
12 necessary to capture and treat any polluted
13 groundwater that flows out of a mined area for as
14 long as need which in some cases could be forever.
15 Either Wolfden or any subsequent owner is too much
16 of an unknown to be allowed to operate. Please keep
17 the area on Pickett Project as it is and keep it in
18 its natural state into the future.

19 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

20 MS. ARBO: Up next is Victoria Markiewicz
21 followed by Lokotah Sanborn and if Dan Iannello
22 could come forward, please.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Victoria
24 Markiewicz and I'm representing myself and I live in
25 Waldo, Maine. I recently graduated from the

1 University of Maine with a master's in climate
2 policy and international affairs and I'm opposed to
3 this mining site and I want to tell you why.
4 Climate change increases the risk for something to
5 go wrong at this site. As was mentioned earlier
6 this zinc ore that they plan on mining is sulfide
7 deposit and when it's exposed to air and water it
8 produces sulfuric acid and this causes acid mine
9 drainage. The proposed mining is surrounded by
10 lakes and stream, as we know, and we need to protect
11 those and climate change is going to make this more
12 difficult. So as we know greenhouse gas emissions
13 are causing the planet to warm and as the planet
14 warms it causes more extreme and unpredictable
15 weather. Floods, hurricanes and extreme rain are
16 becoming more common and harder to predict and
17 harder to prepare for. As we know Hurricane Lee
18 just hit us and New York City flooded last month.
19 This summer parts of Vermont and Maine were dealing
20 with severe flooding. These aren't normal times
21 that we're living in and it's only going to get
22 worse. Wolfden says that they're going to try to
23 prevent acid mine drainage from happening, but I
24 don't see how that is possible since as has been
25 mentioned before they have never operated a mine

1 before and we know that the CEO says his mining
2 experience was open-pit gold mines in the Sahara
3 Desert where there are no wetlands or water
4 anywhere. And now they're going to try to mine in
5 Maine where there is water everywhere. This does
6 not give me any confidence that the company can
7 successfully build and operate or mine in our
8 extremely wet environment. And they said they're
9 going to try to contain the ore, but no one can
10 predict the unpredictable, not even a qualified very
11 mining company can. If this mine were to be built
12 at Pickett Mountain it would likely be an accident
13 waiting to happen which is why I urge you to vote
14 against this proposal. The Katahdin region is
15 sacred to the Wabanaki Tribe, beloved by Maine
16 outdoors people for being an undeveloped area with
17 pristine nature and I don't believe there is really
18 evidence that local communities would see economic
19 benefits. I mean, 10 years of underground labor.
20 Is that really how we want to solve Maine's economic
21 problems? So who are we risking our environment
22 for? Just because this zinc deposit is attractive
23 to Wolfden's investors does not mean that it makes
24 sense for the environment or the people of Maine to
25 build a mine there. And it's a horrible thought

1 that an extreme weather event like we've seen this
2 year will hit Maine, flood the mine and cause acid
3 mine drainage to pollute the Katahdin region and the
4 Penobscot River Watershed. This is not a risk we
5 can take.

6 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

7 MS. ARBO: Up next is Lokotah Sanborn followed
8 by Dan Iannello and if Nolan Altuateh can come
9 forward.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Lokotah Sanborn of
11 Indian Island and I'm here as an individual. I urge
12 you to vote to deny Wolfden's current rezoning
13 application. I want to begin by speaking of CEO
14 Wolfden Resources Ron Little. At the time of the
15 land purchase around Pickett Mountain he was working
16 for a gold mine company, Orezone. The company would
17 operate in Burkina Faso, Africa. Shortly after
18 purchasing the land around Pickett Mountain Ron
19 Little stepped down from Orezone to focus his full
20 attention on opening this mine in Maine. Ron Little
21 made his wealth through the brutal exploitation and
22 devastation of land, water and forced child labor in
23 Burkina Faso. The Wolfden mining CEO hails his work
24 in Africa as his crowning achievement. United
25 Nations, International Labor Organizations state that,

1 quote, in Burkina Faso some 30 to 50 percent of the
2 gold mine workforce is comprised of children, most
3 are under the age of 15 and some work under
4 conditions of forced labor. Beyond the horrors of
5 child labor I want to draw attention to when the
6 Wolfden CEO spoke at the Millinocket hearing this
7 past week claiming that the benefits of the rezoning
8 -- what the benefits would mean in terms of opening
9 the State of Maine up to larger mining companies.
10 He mentioned Lithium deposits and spoke of how this
11 could be good for Maine despite Lithium mining being
12 one of the most destructive to water systems
13 globally. I want you on the LUPC to understand what
14 is at stake with this rezoning application. It's
15 not just about this mine at Pickett Mountain. It's
16 not just about the devastating impacts we could have
17 on our watersheds. We must realize that approving
18 this rezoning application would open the floodgates
19 to destructive mining developers, moving into Maine
20 wrecking havoc and destruction that would last for
21 generations to come. I urge you to not fall for
22 Wolfden's deceit when they talk of how their project
23 would benefit the State of Maine. I believe they
24 couldn't care less about the State of Maine and its
25 people nor its waterways and pristine wilderness.

1 The same way that Ron Little did not seem to care
2 about the brutalization and devastation of children
3 forced to work in his mine in Burkina Faso or the
4 environmental impacts there. I don't believe
5 Wolfden cares about the local economy. They only
6 care about making a quick buck, extracting the
7 resources from Maine and then footing Maine
8 taxpayers with the bill cleaning up the mess that
9 will inevitably occur due to this mine. I urge you
10 to uphold the principles this commission was founded
11 on and your decision -- and to think very deeply
12 about the greater circumstances and approval of this
13 application would mean for Maine. Do not allow this
14 rezoning application to move forward. You have the
15 power to do what is right for our future. I urge
16 you to vote against this rezoning application.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

19 MS. ARBO: Up next is Dan Iannello followed by
20 Nolan Altuatah and if David Nishiziski could come up
21 front, please.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is Dan
23 Iannello. I live in Greene, Maine and I've always
24 loves the outdoors. Over the past few years I've
25 had the privilege of learning from experts in the

1 fields of birds, plants, animals, track
2 identification. And last month I was out with an
3 experienced animal tracker and he took us to a spot
4 where a couple of years he found a beautiful pile of
5 Red Fox scat. And that's pooh, ladies and
6 gentlemen. It's loaded with black cherry seeds.
7 And he took us to that spot where now a little
8 cherry tree is growing and we were looking at it and
9 deer had recently come by and they were browsing
10 upon that tree. It was a beautiful, natural cycle.
11 Fox scat to deer food. And I tell you this story
12 because as my learning continues there's a constant
13 theme that shows itself time and time again;
14 interconnectedness. Everything that happens in
15 these woods is connected. I change the environment.
16 The environment changes me every time I step into
17 those woods. The health of the forest impacts our
18 health. Every one of us here are connected to that
19 fox and to that tree. That cherry tree will now
20 grow. Those leaves will help cleanse the air that
21 we breathe. Its roots will anchor the soil and its
22 fruit will feed the future generations of animals
23 who will spread more seed and that cycle will
24 continue, a cycle we need to continue for our
25 health, the health of our world and for all of us.

1 And the idea of a mining operation in an area so
2 close to Baxter, the Katahdin woods, the beautiful
3 north woods of Maine is frightening. I'm concerned
4 with the loss of habitat, the fragmentation of
5 habitat as well as the harm to the soil and
6 watershed. I worry that if we open the door for
7 this type of operation; 300 acres today quickly
8 becomes 3,000, 30,000, 300,000 acres tomorrow. A
9 mining operation cannot be simply isolated. It
10 can't stand alone. It can't be separated from the
11 woods that surround it. Water, wind, animals and
12 plant life do not recognize a line on a map. They
13 don't know where Baxter ends and a mining operation
14 begins. Directly on Wolfden's website they claim a
15 goal of zero impact to wetlands and waters. It's a
16 lofty claim, but sadly impossible. The second you
17 begin a mining operation the impact has already
18 begun. It can never be zero. Destruction of
19 habitat, heavy equipment, sound pollution, drilling,
20 blasting. This will impact Baxter and beyond. I
21 think of this mine's impact on the prime habitat of
22 the already threatened Canada Lynx. It reminds me
23 of the importance that predators play in our
24 ecosystem. I look forward to the day when we're at
25 hearing where we're talking about we have just

1 doubled or tripled the size of Baxter. I want us to
2 all be stewards of these woods. They are a gift,
3 they are fragile and they are finite. Thank you for
4 your time.

5 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

6 MS. ARBO: Up next is Nolan Altuater followed
7 by David Nishizski and if Sasha Spencer can come up
8 front, please.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for all listening
10 to my testimony against the perspective mining in
11 Wabanaki homelands. My name is Nolan Altuater. I'm
12 a Passamaquoddy citizen from Ze-by-ac (phonetic)
13 currently residing in Old Town where I am a
14 interdisciplinary studies Ph.D. student at the
15 University of Maine while working for my tribal
16 community of ma-doc-me-gook (phonetic). I also grew
17 up in the area where the mining is being prospected.
18 The small town of Island Falls. So this place also
19 carries a significant meaning to me growing up there
20 as well, but I'll first speak to my perspective of a
21 Passamaquoddy and Wabanaki citizen. Wolfden's
22 dismissal of the inherent sovereignty of the
23 Wabanaki Nation speaks to their lack of integrity of
24 the corporation and their unreliability to put the
25 interest of both the Wabanaki people and our

1 neighbors that we share this land and what is now
2 Maine. The treaty responsibilities in which
3 according to Maine's Constitution that are supposed
4 to be upheld for the Wabanaki people are based on
5 the legal definition of sovereignty and not
6 something that can be merely dismissed by a state or
7 a corporation. Additionally, as our definition in
8 tribal sovereignty inevitably include ensuring the
9 health of the land, waters, air and our non-human
10 relatives or everyone, such dismissal also goes
11 against the future of our homeland and the future
12 generations that will be dealing with our decisions
13 today. It's a dismissal of all the hard work that
14 was done by the Wabanaki Environmental Department
15 and Maine's conservation community as well as the
16 public opinion of Maine that supports Wabanaki
17 sovereignty. I believe it's time to stop
18 collectively making a future that individually none
19 of us want to live in. Thank you.

20 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

21 MS. ARBO: Up next is David Nishizski followed
22 by Sasha Spencer and of Ray Coastline could come up
23 front, please.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi, there. I prepared
25 something earlier, but I promptly lost it on the

1 drive here, so I'm here for a couple reasons. One
2 is to look you all in the face, actually. This mine
3 is one of those -- this application for rezoning is
4 one of those things that makes you feel like you're
5 in the Twilight Zone. If things were working
6 properly for our communities we wouldn't have to
7 light this up as the hope for rural communities who
8 are impoverished and will be lifted temporarily out
9 of the situation; albeit left with a toxic water
10 supply. It's a shame to be here to testify. Things
11 like this should just get shut down. Frankly,
12 Wolfden didn't take this application seriously. Why
13 should we take Wolfden seriously? And the claims
14 they're making about these technologies that don't
15 exist. They're not just claims. They're boldfaced
16 lies. And anybody who comes to my house and lies at
17 me and then decides to up-sell the project with
18 racism they're out of the house. They're gone.
19 There has never been a poly-metallic sulfide mine
20 that hasn't resulted in acid mine drainage. I mean,
21 mic drop, right everybody? What are we talking
22 about? I challenge the people who follow me who are
23 proponents of this rezoning application to speak to
24 that. I hear a little bit about some jobs. They're
25 going to evaporate. The company said so itself.

1 And if Wolfden is gunning for selling immediately,
2 what good are any of the promises they're making?
3 So in closing what I have to say is that if the
4 Commission doesn't reject this mine, no offense, but
5 then we need to reject the Commission because if you
6 read the testimony and if you spend time looking at
7 everyone who has spoken and if you take a look at
8 the written testimony on the LUPC site you'll see
9 that the overwhelming majority of people are against
10 this with a few form letters and some testimony that
11 I think they're just not informed enough and we
12 can't let rely on people who aren't informed enough
13 to be dictating the future of our waters and our
14 lands and our sacred spaces. Thank you.

15 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

16 MS. ARBO: Up next is Sasha Spencer followed by
17 Ray Coastline and if Sharon Tisher could come up
18 front, please.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. Thank you all for
20 being here. I appreciate the opportunity to speak.
21 I'm here to support the LUPC in rejecting Wolfden's
22 petition because it is insufficient in its scope and
23 it is an insult to the important work of this
24 Commission. I have been watching the hearings in
25 Millinocket and relate to the folks from that

1 community concerned with youth flight due to lack of
2 opportunities. I grew up in Washington County and I
3 saw the same thing happening there. This proposed
4 mine is not a solution to youth flight. Folks where
5 I grew up would often use the saying: Land rich,
6 money poor to describe our area because like many
7 rural places while the economy is challenging the
8 views are breathtaking, the air and water are clean,
9 the forest is fertile and abundant. A handful of
10 jobs for a decade and feeding off the tax revenue
11 crumbs from the billions that will go into the
12 pockets of these profiteers will not lift this area
13 out of poverty; rather, it will eliminate future
14 opportunities and incentives for young people to
15 stay or come home to the region. LUPC, it is clear
16 that you are tasked with more than simply approving
17 or not approving this one rezoning petition or this
18 one mine. You stand as the lock on the floodgates
19 holding back a wave of predatory transnational
20 entities; Kinross (inaudible) et cetera, all
21 chomping at the bit at to suck the life out of these
22 woods and waters for cash in their investor's
23 pockets. Their vision turns to the health of their
24 communities who happen to live above coveted ore
25 deposits into externalities and this beautiful land

1 we love becomes overburdened. The consequence for
2 this type of mining are dire. There is no room for
3 mistakes. Monitoring may alert us to a problem, but
4 once there is a problem irreversible damage is
5 already done. Endocrine disruption, fertility and
6 reproductive problems, autoimmune conditions and
7 cancer are a few side effects of living near a mine.
8 And putting a mine right in the middle of a huge
9 system of rivers and lakes means a much bigger area
10 is impacted. Clean water is irreplaceable. The
11 Chapter 200 rules do not adequately protect the
12 water. This changed in the law from the
13 restrictions is the blood Wolfden and their friends
14 smelled in the water in the first place and a new
15 vulnerability to exploit. That and Ron Little's
16 misconception that there are no indigenous rights to
17 get in their way in Maine. I trust that you will
18 show Ron Little that you do respect indigenous
19 rights, that you do value all citizen's rights to
20 clean water and safety from exposure to toxic
21 chemicals. Gentle people of the LUPC, I thank you
22 in advance for staying true to your charter, to
23 public health and rejecting this petition.

24 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

25 MS. ARBO: Up next is Ray Coastline and I have

1 to apologize. I think it's Sharon Tisher and if
2 Luke Sekera-Flanders could come forward, please.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Thank you so
4 much for being here and hearing our words. My name
5 is Ray and I'm representing myself. I'd just like
6 to ask you, are you willing to risk the future of
7 the health of the land and waters that sustain all
8 life for less than 100 jobs that would last 10 years
9 or less? Are you willing to be complicit in
10 breaking yet more treaties with the Wabanaki
11 Nations? Poly-metallic mining is toxic. Wolfden's
12 methods are untested. For the future of life, for
13 health and thriving future generations it is not
14 worth the risk. Thank you.

15 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

16 MS. ARBO: Up next is Sharon Tisher followed by
17 Luke Sekera-Flanders and Ann -- and I think it's
18 Burt or it might be Bran.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
20 Sharon Tisher and I live in Orono and I'm speaking
21 for myself. It's a privilege to be able to speak
22 directly with you today about this application and I
23 thank you for holding this extra meeting in Bangor.
24 I'm been a (inaudible) lecturer at the University of
25 Maine where I've been teaching environmental law and

1 policy in honors college courses for now 29 years.
2 I'm testifying in opposition to this application
3 because rezoning this area to allow mineral mining
4 would be inconsistent with the rules of the
5 commission and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
6 Although it might be tempting to pass the buck on
7 this application by sending it to the DEP doing so
8 would be an abdication of your responsibilities as
9 commissioners and stewards of the north woods and
10 the rivers, lakes and streams that are among Maine's
11 most precious resources. Over the past 50 years
12 Maine has achieved enormous progress in cleaning up
13 our waterways. This proposal to build a mine on the
14 Penobscot River watershed would be a colossal
15 mistake. The Bangor Daily News reported that at
16 your hearing last Wednesday say Dan Kushner, water
17 resources program manager for the Penobscot Indian
18 Nation testified at length about the pristine
19 quality of water near the proposed mine and the
20 number of Atlantic salmon, trout and other fish that
21 have returned as a result of extensive restoration
22 projects. He explained that all of the streams at
23 the vicinity of the proposed mine are rated at Class
24 A or AA and that acid mine drainage can easily upset
25 this fragile environment during the spawning season.

1 According to Mr. Kushner this habitat, quote,
2 represents the best chance for Atlantic salmon
3 recovery in the United States, closed quote. He
4 also said that the proposed mine would have a higher
5 likelihood of generating acid mine drainage and to
6 allow a metallic mineral mine to be developed so
7 close to these waters would put the Atlantic salmon
8 recovery at risk. The BDN went on to report that,
9 quote, a Wolfden attorney did not cross-examine
10 Kushner saying they agreed with his testimony. This
11 admission by a Wolfden attorney should put no doubt
12 in your minds about how you should vote on this
13 application. The CLUP requires the commission to
14 avoid approving project that would have undue
15 adverse impacts on the area and its resources.
16 Wolfden's Attorney has admitted through their
17 agreement with Mr. Kushner's testimony that this
18 project would put the Atlantic salmon recovery at
19 risk. Every year I teach my students about the
20 Penobscot River Restoration project and the
21 remarkably successful results in the numbers of
22 salmon returning. It would grieve me deeply to find
23 this mine approved in the heart of the Katahdin
24 region.

25 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

1 MS. ARBO: Up next we have Luke Sekera-Flanders
2 followed by Anne Burt and if Alyssa Arscott can come
3 forward, please.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Luke
5 Sekera-Flanders. I am a member of Community Water
6 Justice. I live in Fryeburg, but I've grown up
7 along the Penobscot River and have extensive family
8 who live in this watershed. I had the privilege of
9 attending the Millinocket hearing. It's good to be
10 heard. Thank you. I attended this hearing not
11 because I am paid to be here, but because I drink
12 water to live. I hope I'm not stretching this by
13 assuming that all of you do as well. I live in the
14 Penobscot River watershed and spent much of my
15 upbringing along the Penobscot River. It seems to
16 me that we all understand that this region has an
17 abundance of water. This precious gift is also a
18 responsibility. What has been negated by Wolfden is
19 that aquifers, the underground sources of clean
20 drinking water, are vast and interconnected. Even
21 with the most advanced methods available efforts to
22 map aquifers are at best guesswork. I have heard
23 repeatedly that Maine has the strongest mining laws
24 in the nation. The reality is that we had the
25 strongest mining laws until 2017 when amendments

1 were passed that allowed for the contamination of
2 groundwater. Chapter 200 does not protect us from
3 acid mine drainage. Even with hot new mining
4 technology why on earth would we test it here and
5 gamble the ruin of such a uniquely rich region in
6 water? The Pickett Mountain Mine site lies at the
7 headwaters of the Penobscot River watershed and
8 though a Wolfden-contracted scientist insists that
9 it is not an issue, we know that whatever
10 contamination affects the headwaters will affect all
11 of it downstream. Through this process I have been
12 presented with false choices like it is between jobs
13 and economic opportunity versus the environment; or
14 it's mining here versus labor exploitation in Africa
15 and South America. We seem to forget that this mine
16 would enrich the same people who built career and
17 fortunes off these devastating projects. The mining
18 industry is known for many things. Being scrupulous
19 is not one of them. As climate change worsens water
20 access is worsening. By 2030 it is expected that
21 two-thirds of the world population will live without
22 secure access to clean drinking water. We cannot
23 take our abundance of water for granted. We must
24 not gamble with an entire watershed for the sake of
25 10 years of limited economic benefit. The Wabanaki

1 Tribes have spoken. The vast majority of impacted
2 communities have spoken. Consider those who cannot
3 yet speak for themselves. You know your
4 responsibility to the people, to all of us, to the
5 environment, to the river, to the waters. Please
6 act accordingly. Thank you.

7 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

8 MS. ARBO: Up next is Anne Burt followed by
9 Alyssa Arscott and if Linda Swackhamer could come
10 forward, please.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you for the opportunity
12 to testify today. My name is Anne Burt and I'm
13 testifying as a member of the Friends Committee on
14 Maine Public Policy and as the Maine Council of
15 Churches Representative to the Environmental
16 Priorities Coalition. The Friends Committee is a
17 statewide network of Quakers who are focused on
18 public policy issues in Augusta. For several
19 decades we have addressed issues of concern to the
20 Wabanaki people in Maine and worked to improve and
21 strengthen Wabanaki State relations. The Council of
22 Churches is an ecumenical coalition of 7 main line
23 Protestant denominations in Maine including Quakers
24 and together these denominations represent more than
25 400 congregations and 50,000 members. The Friends

1 Committee and the Maine Council of Churches join the
2 Houlton Band of Maliseets, the Penobscot Nation and
3 many Maine environmental groups in strongly opposing
4 any rezoning that would enable Wolfden Resources to
5 proceed with mining and processing zinc and other
6 metals in the Pickett Mountain area or elsewhere in
7 Maine. We oppose the rezoning proposal knowing that
8 the forested and pristine Katahdin region and
9 Penobscot River watershed are sacred to the Wabanaki
10 Nations and treasured by Mainers as well. It's an
11 area where the outdoor economy is rapidly expanding.
12 On these lands and waters Wabanaki people for
13 millennia have engaged in their cultural practices
14 of sustenance fishing, hunting and foraging for
15 medicines. The Class A waters are home to iconic
16 and threatened wild Atlantic salmon and brook trout
17 culturally important and traditional sources of
18 protein for the Wabanaki people and others. We know
19 mining is a dirty industry. Maine's current mining
20 regulatory structure put in place in 2017 is
21 designed to assure that only companies with proven
22 track records of technical expertise and financial
23 security be permitted to develop mines in Maine.
24 Wolfden has no proven successes to demonstrate that
25 it could treat the toxic waste waters created during

1 the metallic mining process and bring that water up
2 to Maine's legal standards. Callahan Mine has been
3 cited here as a good example of a long-term toxic
4 effects on ground water and the health and economic
5 wellbeing. Recent studies have shown that although
6 indigenous people comprise less than 5 percent of
7 the world's population they affectively protect 80
8 percent of the world's biodiversity in regions
9 they've lived for thousands of years. We urge you
10 to listen to the wisdom or our Wabanaki neighbors
11 and reject the Wolfdan rezoning application. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

14 MS. ARBO: Up next is Alyssa Arscott followed
15 by Linda Swackhamer and if Sidney Mitchell could
16 come forward, please.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I am Alyssa
18 Arscott. I live in Orono right now. I'm a
19 second-year student at the University of Maine
20 studying ecology and environmental science. This is
21 my testimony, but I'm not unfamiliar to the
22 importance that you all hold in making the correct
23 decision to deny Wolfdan's request for rezoning.
24 Ever since I can remember I have been told that it
25 was up to the young people to save this planet.

1 Growing up in a climate crisis it has been beaten in
2 to me how the world around us is burning. It is
3 dying. I have grown up a dying world. I have never
4 known a healthy Earth. This past summer I was an
5 educational trip leader to the University of Maine
6 and I helped lead incoming first-year students
7 through the west branch of the Penobscot River. We
8 hiked from the north of Baxter State Park to South
9 of Baxter State Park and I was able to witness the
10 clean water, flourishing wildlife and the power the
11 land holds over the people to bring them together.
12 I left each of these trips knowing that I helped
13 these first-year students make connections to both
14 the land and each other as they entered their
15 college experience. If this request goes through I
16 wonder what else you'll allow. Soon there will be
17 no land to connect over. Through destroying the
18 connection to the land you are taking away the
19 connection to the people. I am tired of my world
20 dying. I am tired of you allowing it to die and
21 telling me that it is my problem to fix it. Thank
22 you for your time. Have a good night.

23 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

24 MS. ARBO: Up next we have Linda Swackhamer
25 followed by Sidney Mitchell and if Serena Wessely

1 could come up front, please.

2 MR. WORCESTER: After this speaker we'll take a
3 10-minute break.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Thank you for
5 having this also down in Bangor to reflect the broad
6 community interest in this. The history of this
7 territory has always been of treasure hunting and
8 taking. This is traditional and present Wabanaki
9 land and has been a source of extractive wealth for
10 out of staters for centuries. Beaver pelts, timber,
11 cod from the gulf and water mining by Nestle.
12 Prospectors have always looked to what is now Maine
13 to take things from and to dump things like mill
14 waste and trash leachate in the river. People
15 worked hard on the Penobscot River Restoration Trust
16 to bring back healthy fisheries and habitat. I urge
17 you to reject this rezoning proposal by Wolfden
18 Resources. This place downstream here is habitat
19 and home. I live upstream in Veazie by the Veazie
20 Dam and I see the effects of the re-wilding and the
21 attempts to clean this river. It is magnificent.
22 This place is worth fighting for. We have learned
23 from the past that private interest extract and take
24 and leave a mess long after the money is gone and it
25 remains to be seen if this project is viable. The

1 people and wildlife will be left with groundwater
2 pollution and habitat destruction. The jobs
3 promised in the rezoning proposal -- well, last week
4 Wolfdan's VP, Mr. Ouellette, said it would be 4 or 5
5 years before any jobs would be available to locals.
6 I would bet my mortgage on it. The claim that there
7 are no prerequisite indigenous rights is
8 embarrassing even for a non-native like me. This
9 company doesn't know us and insults us by asking for
10 this rezoning proposal. If you want to do business
11 in Maine how about affordable housing, social
12 services or renewable energy? We are open for
13 business for these terms. We need to have a
14 national and even an international conversation
15 about minerals. We need to move into a renewable
16 energy future, but this is not that. Our history
17 here tells us the right thing to do. We know how
18 this extractive business goes. We've seen it play
19 out and we've learned where our real treasures are.
20 Please vote no and listen to the majority of the
21 people here and I appreciate your time. Thank you.

22 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. Now we're going to
23 take a 10-minute break.

24 (A brief recess was taken.)

25 MR. WORCESTER: Just as a reminder when you

1 come up to speak be sure to tell us your name and
2 where you're from. Audie, do you want to get more
3 people up?

4 MS. ARBO: Sure thing. So I called Sidney
5 Mitchell and then Serena Wessely and then it will be
6 Hans Carlson.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. Good evening,
8 Chairman, members committee, Executive Director
9 Beyer. My name is Serena Wessely and I am a young
10 person who moved from out of state and lived full
11 time in Patten, Maine. We do exist. I did drive
12 down here. I'm here to voice my concerns about the
13 mining project. I'm a chemist with a master's in
14 biochemistry from John Hopkins. I'd like to
15 highlight the chemical threat posed from the mining
16 process. The mining of zinc and other heavy metals
17 releases poisonous sulfoxide -- we've heard about
18 sulfuric acid -- into the environment. Not only
19 into the groundwater, but also into the air and
20 soil. The transit of the materials to and from the
21 mine that release these poisons along the entire
22 route including my house which I can see. These
23 pollutants in the air would cause our communities of
24 mostly elderly and children to be at high risk for
25 cancers and respiratory illness. Pollutants from

1 mining are the 13th leading cause of death in the
2 whole world. As a result residents would end up
3 spending more money on healthcare every year. Not
4 only do the pollutants poison our people they would
5 also cause acid rain. This acid rain would poison
6 our waterways, wetlands and fisheries. This would
7 cost our current and future economy greatly in ways
8 we cannot even fathom. Say goodbye to fishing trips
9 to your family and friends in our beautiful area to
10 the most beautiful waterfalls ever seen in the
11 world. Wolfden will then say they can put in a mine
12 without any of these problems occurring. I've done
13 the research and I have provided here 13 links for
14 peer-reviewed journals and books that explain that
15 even our best technology; permeable reactive
16 barriers, subsurface flow compost and
17 phytoremediation, nothing that Wolfden told us
18 about. Do not promise us safety. At best the only
19 available method would remove 67.5 percent of zinc
20 from the groundwater. There are no current
21 technologies that would ensure our air safety. I
22 understand why community members want the mine.
23 They want to add jobs to our economy. I researched
24 this as well. The term ghost town comes from the
25 boom-bust economies of mining. Yes. Some

1 individuals may receive a better income for a few
2 years, but it will end up costing our area more. As
3 we've heard, if Wolfden decides to not upkeep their
4 decommissioned mine who will pay for the cleanup?
5 Can Mainers really afford to sell out our
6 environment, poisoning our water and air and
7 long-term economy for a few folks who want to mow
8 others down so they can make a quick buck? What
9 would Governor Baxter have said? I can't even bring
10 my dog into the park to go hiking with me. Thank
11 you for your time and consideration.

12 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

13 MS. ARBO: Up next is Hans Carlson followed by
14 Brownie Carson and Scott Walker.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. My name is Hans
16 Carlson. I'm a resident of the Town of Castine.
17 From my front porch I look at over the mouth
18 Bagaduce River to Goose Pond and the former Callahan
19 mine. It, too, was once a state-of-the-art piece of
20 technology. Nicole did a really, really good job of
21 laying out the specifics of that, but let me
22 emphasize a couple of things. Four years of
23 cooperate profit, 55 years of environmental damage.
24 A pond you can't swim in, land you're not allowed to
25 go on. 28 million dollars thus far in remediation

1 which is not even half done all paid for by us.
2 We've been down this road. Why would we go down it
3 again? I just don't understand. Anywhere in the
4 State of Maine, but particularly in an area that is
5 a treasure for everybody in the State of Maine that
6 we know is sacred territory for Wabanaki Tribes,
7 that we know is a treasure, really, for the whole
8 country. The Maine North Woods are really some of
9 the last undamaged places in the United States.
10 This is a terrible, terrible idea. Please reject
11 this application. Thank you.

12 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

13 MS. ARBO: Up next is Brownie Carson followed
14 by Scott Walker and Becky Bartovics.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is
16 Brownie Carson. I'm a resident of Harpswell and a
17 Marine Corp Vietnam Veteran and I served there in
18 1968 and '69. From 2016 to 2020 I was a state
19 senator representing Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell
20 and North Yarmouth and I was the lead sponsor of LD
21 820; an act to protect Maine's clean water and
22 taxpayers from mining pollution. The purpose of
23 this law is to protect Maine's clean water and
24 taxpayers from the pollution and the huge cleanup
25 costs that have plagued mining operations in the US

1 and around the world. Our 2017 law set protective
2 standards based on the best industry practices so
3 that any company seeking to mine in Maine must have
4 2 clear traits. First, a strong record of
5 responsible mining in other jurisdictions. Second,
6 strong finances to cover the full cost of
7 monitoring, closure, treatment, remediation and a
8 possible catastrophic failure. Your responsibility
9 to the people of Maine is to determine whether
10 Wolfden has these traits. In terms of a track
11 record Wolfden has none. As the company's CEO said
12 last week Wolfden has never built or operated a
13 mine. In terms of finances the company has
14 virtually none, 2.1 million in its balance sheet.
15 Despite having no track record and very little money
16 Wolfden's CEO testified, quote, nobody has built a
17 mine to this standard in the world, but we will,
18 close quote. The core question before the
19 commission is whether this claim is believable. Can
20 this tiny company accomplish something that no other
21 company has? If you doubt the credibility of this
22 claim, then it's hard to see how the commission
23 could reach any conclusion other than to deny this
24 rezoning petition. At issue here is whether Wolfden
25 has earned the right to move on to the next phase

1 which would be a multiple-year Chapter 200 review by
2 the DEP. The commission should be wary, very wary
3 forcing DEP to spend additional taxpayer dollars and
4 staff resources processing a permit application for
5 a company that has utterly failed to show that it
6 can either meet LUPC or DEP standards. In October
7 2021 Wolfdon withdrew its rezoning petition in the
8 face of the recommendation by LUPC to deny it based
9 on flagrant errors and inconsistencies. Since then
10 what has changed? Not the company's finances,
11 technical expertise or the serious risk of damage to
12 the project area. It seems that Wolfdon is asking
13 permission to play with fire in the heart of Maine's
14 north woods. Don't let this happen, please. Please
15 deny Wolfdon's rezoning petition. Thank you.

16 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

17 MS. ARBO: Up next is Scott Walker followed by
18 Becky Bartovics and we'll try for Sidney Mitchell
19 again.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening commission
21 members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak
22 this evening. My name is Scott Walker. I represent
23 myself. I'm a resident of Island Falls which is
24 nearby this project. My home overlooks Mattawamkeag
25 Lake and the flowing waters of the Mattawamkeag

1 River. I am here in support of rezoning and
2 allowing the Wolfden Group the opportunity to prove
3 themselves. I am a business owner. I am an
4 employer of many jobs in tourism, area recreational
5 opportunities and real estate. I know the land
6 very, very well. I've traveled it night and day.
7 I'm also one of the coordinators of the grooming for
8 the snowmobile trail system for Big Valley Snow
9 Club. The Wolfden Group has given us an amazing
10 opportunity to travel their land, to create trails
11 and allow people to see it in that manner. It's
12 been a wonderful relationship that we have so far
13 with them for allowing us to do that and to share
14 that land with other people. I know that people
15 have sat in here today, you know, let those voices
16 of those locals speak the most weight. You know, in
17 the area, we've got many businesses on this ground
18 promoting this area every single day of my life.
19 I'm not going to stand here and hurt the area, but I
20 do believe that they should have the opportunity to
21 prove what they say that can do. Should they poison
22 the water? No. Should they be shut down before
23 they even get the opportunity to prove themselves?
24 Absolutely not. I want to stand here in front of
25 you and say give them the chance. Let them show

1 what they can do. Maine has extremely strict rules.
2 They need to follow them. If they don't, out. But
3 if they can, why shouldn't we give that opportunity
4 to them and to the people of that economically
5 deprived area? I've been in this area my entire
6 life. My family settled on the land I live on 152
7 years ago in 1871. I don't want anything happen to
8 happen to it, all right? I promote it, I work it
9 and I do everything I can for the area, but I do,
10 again, want to repeat myself. I am in support of
11 the Pickett Mountain Project. I do believe that if
12 they can do it the right way it's wonderful for the
13 area. And they do need to prove themselves, but if
14 they can do it, it is good for our area. It also
15 allows the people of northern Maine, the hardworking
16 individuals of northern Maine, to prove themselves
17 that they can extract minerals from these mines in a
18 clean, environmentally friendly way. So, thank you
19 for the opportunity to speak and I welcome ay
20 questions after.

21 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

22 MS. ARBO: Up next is Beck Bartovics followed
23 by Sidney Mitchell and then if Karen Francoer can
24 come forward.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. Thank you very much for

1 taking my testimony. And since you've heard from so
2 many people I'm just going to speak fairly shortly.
3 I'm Becky Bartovics. I represent Sierra Club Maine.
4 There are 22,000 members and supporters and I also
5 am a grandmother of and mother of fishermen in the
6 bottom of the Penobscot River and Penobscot Bay. I
7 live on what's known as North Haven Island occupied
8 Penobscot territory. I want to say that first of
9 all that we are speaking in opposition to this --
10 Sierra Club is speaking in opposition to this and we
11 will be presenting our testimony to you at a later
12 date. I want to also say that we stand with the
13 Wabanaki People. The science that they have based
14 their information on is clear, that no mining
15 operation in the Pickett Mountain area can happen
16 without causing harm to the health of the existing
17 stream, the watersheds and its resources including
18 the largest Atlantic salmon return in the US. I
19 think you've heard that from so many people about
20 that, but acid mining will impact the top of the
21 watershed all the way down to the bottom and to our
22 ocean. It doesn't just stop in one little stream
23 when this happens and it's a huge area. It's the
24 lifeblood of Maine. The greater Penobscot watershed
25 is the lifeblood for much of Maine. It is -- there

1 are Class AA and Class A tributaries that are
2 essential habitats for the brook trout and the
3 Atlantic salmon, but they're also pristine, clear,
4 clean areas. And starting at the top of the
5 watershed and risking the damage that can happen to
6 our water. It is -- water is the lifeblood of our
7 state for everything that we have here. And it's in
8 our bodies. Our water talks to each other and the
9 water that we have has been through all the living
10 beings in the planet before us because there's
11 always been only been 1 percent of clean water in
12 the world and this water we are risking acidifying
13 and that will damage every living thing downstream.
14 So I hope you will consider what you have before
15 you. To do no undue adverse impact in the existing
16 uses and that's your language. It's going to be
17 hard for you to do this. There's going to be a lot
18 of financial pressure. There's a lot of big
19 business that's probably throwing a lot of
20 information at you, but that's the leg for you to
21 stand on and that's what we have given you as the
22 people of Maine in the process of doing or --
23 setting our laws. I hope you will deny this
24 application from Wolfden. Thank you very much.

25 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

1 MS. ARBO: Up next is Sidney Mitchell if she's
2 here. If not we'll move to Karen Francoeur followed
3 by John Banks.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening LUPC
5 Commissioners and others. I just broke the
6 microphone.

7 MR. WORCESTER: Please state who you are and
8 where you're from.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is John Banks. I'm a
10 resident of Orono, a professional forester and a
11 citizen of the Penobscot Nation. I'm here tonight
12 to urge you to deny this zone request, this zone
13 change. I retired from the Penobscot Nation 2 years
14 ago after a 40-year career with the tribe as a
15 departmental director. During that time I also
16 served as one of the Penobscot Nation's
17 commissioners on the Maine Indian Tribal State
18 Commission for 34 years. As you may know, the Maine
19 Indian Tribal State Commission was created under the
20 statutory provisions of the 1980 Maine Indian Land
21 Claim Settlement Act. One of MILCS'
22 responsibilities is to regulate the taking of fish
23 on certain water bodies which brings me to the first
24 point I'd like to share with you tonight; that's the
25 issue of indigenous rights. Tribal sustenance

1 fishing rights are recognized in federal as well as
2 tribal law. And in fact MILCS must consider
3 sustenance fishing practices when they enact fishing
4 regulations on water bodies where they have
5 jurisdiction. So you can image my shock when
6 Wolfden stated that there are no indigenous rights
7 in Maine. That statement made me realize that this
8 company is willing to spread false information in
9 order to assure its backers for the smooth
10 permitting process. The assumption that the tribes
11 have no rights in Maine also makes me question if
12 Wolfden is the type of company we should trust with
13 the significant national resources of the Pickett
14 Mountain region. I don't think so. The second
15 point I would like to make tonight has more to do
16 with the LUPC process and some of the comments I've
17 heard during these public sessions. The thought
18 that we should let this play out, approve the zoning
19 change and quote, unquote, see what happens as the
20 first test of Maine's recently revised mining
21 regulations makes me cringe. Why on earth would
22 state officials take such a gamble with this
23 project? This wait and see what happens attitude
24 seems to me seems to me like a potential shirking of
25 LUPC's duties. We all know this type of mining does

1 cause ecological damage everywhere it has been done.
2 This very dangerous gamble would be a huge mistake.
3 During the course of the hearings in Millinocket I
4 heard Wolfden use the --

5 MR. WORCESTER: Sir, can you please --

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- many times.

7 MR. WORCESTER: Sir, can you please wrap it up.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The economic future of this
9 region lies in the outdoor recreational sector;
10 hiking, canoeing, hunting, cross-country skiing,
11 mountain biking, fishing, ATVing, trapping
12 snowmobiling, wildlife watching, kayaking all bring
13 a lot of opportunity to the region. New motorized
14 and none motorized trails --

15 MR. WORCESTER: Sir, you've exceeded your time.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The current zone -- one more
17 sentence. The current zoning of the Pickett
18 Mountain area recognizes and supports these uses
19 that I've mentioned. Changing that zoning now would
20 be an exercise of the tail wagging the dog. I urge
21 you to reject Wolfden's zoning change request.
22 Thank you.

23 MS. ARBO: Up next is Karin Spitfire followed
24 by -- I can't read the first name so we're going to
25 go with the last Hadlock-Seeley. Karin Spitfire?

1 Okay. We'll move to Robin Hadlock-Seeley.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Robin
3 Hadlock-Seeley. I'm a marine scientist and I was
4 born here and I live in Pembroke, a Washington
5 County town of 788 people about the size of Patten,
6 actually. I've listened to most of the testimony
7 last week. I represent myself. I oppose the
8 rezoning and thank you for all your work on the
9 commission. I came here this evening to share some
10 of Pembroke's experience in 2021/22 with Wolfden and
11 his company trying to get their silver mine explored
12 and developed in our town. This might help you in
13 your deliberations. I also want to share what I've
14 learned about another junior mining company that
15 Wolfden's staff worked for and count as part of
16 Wolfden's, quote, 400 years of experience, unquote,
17 so often mentioned by the applicant. The most
18 polite I can say about our experience as a town with
19 Wolfden is that people found it necessary to fact
20 check every claim or statement offered by the
21 company. Many claims were made, but in Pembroke
22 actions speak louder than words and we paid
23 attention to actions. Residents had great concerns
24 about water, water quality, acid mine drainage the
25 same as here, but we also worried about our

1 state-designated salmon and trout habitat and
2 aquifer and fishermen were very concerned about mine
3 pollutants draining in Cobscook Bay and the impact
4 of heavy truck traffic on our local roads.

5 Pembroke's residents were surprised to wake up one
6 morning, for example, and see a truck with Mexico
7 plates show up. Not Mexico, Maine. The County of
8 Mexico. Induced Polarization or IP is a geophysical
9 imaging technique for exploring ore in the ground.

10 Rather than use a Maine company capable of IP work
11 Wolfdon, apparently, hired a company from Mexico.

12 Our little town finally said enough and in April
13 2022 we voted overwhelmingly 129 to 48 to put in
14 place a local ordinance that regulates mining to
15 prohibit commercial scale mines in our town. And

16 finally I urge you to look up the history of Trevali
17 Mining Corporation in Canada. There's no need to

18 invoke the Callahan mine. You can just look at
19 these Trevali mines. Mr. Ouellette told us in

20 Pembroke at he used to work at their Half Mile Mine
21 in New Brunswick as an engineer so his years there
22 count towards Wolfdon's 400 years of experience.

23 And right after he told us that -- just a few
24 months -- they were filing for creditor protection.

25 They were in financial collapse. They filed for

1 receivership after mining executives took about 40
2 million dollars in payouts, employees were out of
3 work, New Brunswick ended up paying 49 million in
4 remediation and the provincial government became
5 responsible for carrying on the water remediation
6 system so water standards were not violated and
7 ended up renting equipment from Trevali to do so.
8 So, I urge you to look up the history of these
9 companies. And obviously, Wolfden is not
10 responsible for this mess I've just described, but
11 it was a junior mining company and what happened in
12 New Brunswick after it collapsed could happen here.
13 Please deny the rezoning request. Thank you.

14 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

15 MS. ARBO: Up next is Eddie Nachamie followed
16 by Teddy Dickerson-Smith and Margaret Schuber.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Eddie
18 Nachamie. I live year round in Orono. I'm here
19 representing myself. I'm here to urge the LUPC to
20 deny the rezoning application for Wolfden's Pickett
21 Mountain mine. I'm a second year environmental
22 science student at the University of Maine. I've
23 spent a lot of time in my classes discussing the
24 disastrous human health effects of metallic mineral
25 mining projects across the world. I don't have

1 confidence in the protection measures described by
2 Wolfden to curb acid mine drainage at the proposed
3 site. I know through my coursework that the water
4 in this great state is connected through our
5 watersheds. This project will not exist in an
6 isolated bubble no matter what Wolfden says. I do
7 not believe that the measures outlined by this
8 company will provide enough protection for the
9 continued integrity of this watershed to be
10 maintained. I recently had the opportunity to go on
11 a bike packing trip over fall break where friends of
12 mine took a bus up to Sherman and biked back to
13 Orono. We had the privilege to bike through the
14 Katahdin region over 5 days. During our journey we
15 were able to safely refill our water supply using a
16 filter bottle at several rivers and streams that are
17 part of this watershed, notably the Savoy River.
18 This water sustained me. I want it to be able to
19 sustain me when I come back in the years that
20 follow. I want it to be able to sustain me and the
21 family I hope to bring to see it one day. Do we not
22 deserve the ability to drink the water from our
23 planet? We can no longer afford to be shortsighted
24 in how we treat our world. I urge the LUPC to deny
25 Wolfden's rezoning application. Please preserve the

1 integrity of water resources for my generation and
2 for future generations. Thank you.

3 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

4 MS. ARBO: Up next is Teddy Dickerson-Smith
5 followed by Margaret Schuber and then Chris
6 Buchanan.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Teddy
8 Dickerson-Smith. I'm 17 and I'm a resident of
9 Orono, Maine, but 16 and a half of those years in a
10 small lobster fishing community on the Schoodic
11 Peninsula. So, during the summers and falls for my
12 whole life I've spent at camp in Baxter State Park
13 enjoying the views and the hiking all around the
14 rivers and lakes in the area. If this mine were to
15 go through and this proposal was to be allowed then
16 the chemical output of this facility would mean that
17 kids like me could not safely play and drink from
18 the waters and stream in the area for years and
19 years to come. Over the summer I did an internship
20 with a local land trust where I learned about the
21 fallout of a different industry, but similar
22 consequences; the Orrington Holtrachem facility
23 which ended up with the dumping of a whole bunch of
24 mercury into the Penobscot River watershed and just
25 in the past few years the Natural Resource Defense

1 Council and the Maine People's Alliance won a case
2 against the company that ran that facility to clean
3 up the river and the areas around it, but that took
4 like multiple decades to go through and the cleanup
5 is not going to fully reverse the effects -- the
6 negative effects that it had on the landscape.
7 Importantly to me were over 13 square miles of
8 lobster and crab fishing down the coast at the mouth
9 of the Penobscot were closed due to the high level
10 of contaminates in the water. And for someone who
11 grew up in a small very resource-dependent community
12 I think that the impacts of this small industry of
13 mining should not be allowed to completely outweigh
14 the industries all across Maine that have existed
15 for hundreds and hundreds of years relying on the
16 safety of the fish and animals in the rivers and
17 streams and then of course down river in the ocean.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

20 MS. ARBO: Up next is Margaret Schuber followed
21 by Chris Buchanan and then Diana Owen.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes. Hello. My name is
23 Margaret Schuber. I'm a resident of Maine. I grew
24 up in Augusta and I live in Cumberland and I'd like
25 to thank the Land Use Planning Committee for

1 listening to our pleas in general to save the
2 environment of Maine and request that you please do
3 not rezone to allow mining on the Pickett Mountain
4 area in Maine. We ask that you please not allow
5 Wolfden to put a mine in that region. I'm here to
6 represent my family. My parents years ago returned
7 from World War II. My dad was hired to work at the
8 veteran center in Togus. After seeing the
9 destruction of Europe and the death of so many
10 people many veterans sought solace in the nature of
11 Maine and I think they still do. People are still
12 coming back; the Vietnam Veterans, the Korean
13 Veterans. We don't want to see Maine destroyed like
14 Europe. The mountains, lakes and ocean and the
15 beauty of Maine has brought hope to many people.
16 It's clear from history that the people of Maine do
17 not want their environment destroyed and polluted so
18 that only a few corporations/businesses can profit
19 from our losses. We are all very concerned that the
20 Wolfden Corporation will destroy a viral Maine
21 environment and that there are no second chances.
22 If the Wolfden pollutes the area of Pickett Mountain
23 it will be forever. One of my grandfathers, my
24 mom's dad, was coal miner who mined coal in Kentucky
25 and when that was bad they moved to Indiana to mine

1 coal. Their life was awful. My mom's life was
2 awful growing up and her dad died very early from
3 black lung and the area in which they all worked was
4 toxic and polluted and my mother's life was a great
5 hardship and mining seemed to create just a good
6 life for the corporate bosses and the developer.
7 You have to be really, really careful with something
8 so toxic. It's well documented how the mining
9 industry has created pollution in Maine and around
10 the world. You've heard a lot of testimony about
11 that. Mining companies will simply declare
12 bankruptcy if it goes wrong and leave taxpayers to
13 pay for decades of remediation and cause the funding
14 of Super Funds. Many people have mentioned that and
15 many examples such as the Callahan mine. Well,
16 anyway, I guess I'll stop there.

17 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

18 MS. ARBO: Up next is Chris Buchanan followed
19 by Diana Owen and then Don York.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi, good evening. I know
21 we've all been here for a long time today and I
22 appreciate your time and I appreciate you hearing
23 us. My name is Chris Buchanan. I live in Searsport
24 now which is -- as many of you know -- near where
25 the Penobscot River comes out into the bay and it's

1 occupied Wabanaki Territory. I wanted to pick up
2 some pieces that people haven't mentioned. I've had
3 a lot of different hats, but I'm currently a
4 full-time carpenter, but for many years I worked as
5 a community organizer and I facilitated the creation
6 of a decentralized coalition to stop the east/west
7 corridor from going across Maine, so I've been to
8 lots of events like this and one of the things I've
9 noticed in all that time is the legal imbalances
10 that exist between communities and corporations
11 which enter them. Just the current state of law in
12 our nation is such that when a community decides
13 something like, well, we don't want them here
14 anymore, it's extremely difficult to remove them.
15 So I think it's a nice concept that, you know, let's
16 let them try and see what happens and then we can
17 just ask them to leave, but it's completely
18 unrealistic and it won't go that way. So I regret
19 some of the people think that because it's just been
20 proven over and over again not to be the case. I
21 also wanted to just not glaze over the cleanup like
22 it will take so much money to clean and it will be
23 so expensive and the burden will be on taxpayers.
24 Of course it will. That's how it goes, but the
25 cleanup itself is really intensive. I was raised by

1 a biologist who -- this was his expertise. And the
2 cleanup to -- for example Holtrachem -- decades and
3 decades of dredging in the river to the point where
4 they're sorting all this soil and trying to find
5 just only a milligram of contaminates that are left.
6 It is so environmentally damaging just to do the
7 cleanup and I want to be heard. And the last thing
8 I was going to say is that concept of we need
9 another industry to save us is sad. It's over to do
10 it that way. I think the people who have spoken to
11 sustenance and how we need the water and land to be
12 healthy in order to live. Those are the kind of
13 economies we need. So it's the time for local
14 economy. Depending on and global companies and
15 global economics is failing. It's going to continue
16 to fail and climate change threatens all of us and
17 water does become more scarce. It would be really
18 sad if we couldn't live here anymore and definitely
19 no young people will come. I guarantee it. So, I'm
20 just ready to move out of this boom and bust cycle
21 and I hope you guys are too. Thanks.

22 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

23 MS. ARBO: Up next is Diana Owen followed by
24 Dawn York and then Barb Baker.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Diana Owen. I

1 live in Piscataquis County/Milo. I am First Nation
2 Canada Maliseet. My father is from Brazil and I
3 could tell you horror stories about the environment.
4 Brazil is in an absolute destructive decline,
5 absolute economically and environmentally and they
6 continue to do it all for a burger, all for
7 McDonald's. We've got to have one more building,
8 one more McDonald's on every corner. Brazil is
9 gone. Is that what Maine wants? I've already seen
10 clear cutting up at Mt. Katahdin. That was my
11 sacred land. That was the land of my ancestors.
12 Did you hear the chant that I did in the back? That
13 was a call to our ancestors. That's a war cry.
14 That the call for them to come here and protect us
15 because we're certainly not -- I'm going to give you
16 a little bit of a story. My daughter and I, she was
17 2 at the time of BP. We were in Louisiana when the
18 BP oil spill happened. We heard the broken
19 promises. We were 10 miles from the shore. We were
20 5 miles from BP headquarters. Whenever you wanted
21 to pass the headquarters and the only way to go to
22 Homer, Louisiana was to go through and pass the
23 headquarters so you were searched and your vehicles
24 were searched and your body was searched. You had
25 to pull over and it wasn't the United States

1 military who did it. It was UK. UK Military
2 searched the bodies of United States citizens and it
3 was allowed. Completely allowed. The digging up --
4 they would take the oil and bury it into the sand
5 and then the shore, of course, would bring it back
6 up. And if you took pictures it was a \$5,000 fine
7 and you could do 15 years in jail and be on a
8 terrorist list and that was no joke. That's what we
9 endured in BP. We got out of BP, got out of
10 Louisiana, moved to North Carolina. All of a
11 sudden, oh my gosh. The chicken farm factory of
12 Purdue threw in 2,000 gallons' worth of chicken
13 sewage into the drinking water and at the same time
14 2 days later the North Carolina Nuclear Power Plant
15 had a leak. How many of these do we need to endure?
16 How many? I understand oil, chicken farm factories.
17 Farm factories is the number 1 cause of environment,
18 the climate change. When is it going to be enough
19 that corporation doesn't override the people? We're
20 forgetting the Constitution and we're also
21 forgetting it's the people, not corporation and not
22 legislation. We put you where you are. Remember
23 it. Because we survived BP but there were a lot of
24 people who did not. Autoimmunes are at an all-time
25 rise. Cancer is at an all-time rise. The only time

1 people were actually allowed to come out and
2 actually do any cleanup they sat in buses for hours
3 and hours and hours until media showed up. Is that
4 what we're going to here? We're going to do the
5 same thing here. Enough is enough. Put the people
6 first. Do cleanup. Clean up what you've already
7 done to the water and the paper mills and the lumber
8 companies. Clean them up first. My name is Diana
9 Owen.

10 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

11 MS. ARBO: Up next is Dawn York followed by
12 Barb Baker and Jan Morrill. We'll go with Jan
13 Morrill.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is Jan
15 Morrill. I live in Rockland. I live in Rockland.
16 I'm the tailings campaign manager for Earth Works.
17 My name was last on the list so I think we're
18 getting there and thank you very much for the
19 opportunity to come speak to you today. Earth Works
20 is a national nonprofit dedicated for protecting
21 communities and the environment from the destructive
22 impacts of extraction process; mining, energy, oil
23 and natural gas. The precautionary principle
24 emphasizes that that decision makers should use
25 caution when faced with choices when the exact

1 impacts of a project are not understood and where
2 the potential effects may be long lasting and
3 severe. That LUPC must have a clear understanding
4 of the water and the environmental impacts of the
5 Pickett Mountain project. This is particularly
6 important because every year the metallic mining
7 industry is the leading industrial polluter in the
8 United States. In the west over 40 percent of the
9 headwaters of the western watershed have been
10 polluted by mining. Acid mine drainage is
11 especially harmful because it can occur indefinitely
12 long after mining has ended. And a literature view
13 of AMD done by the Alaska Fish and Wildlife found
14 that, quote, no hard rock surface mine exists today
15 that can demonstrate that acid mine drainage can be
16 stopped once it occurs on a large scale, end quote.
17 Due to the severity of water impacts of acid mine
18 drainage many hard rock mines across the western
19 United State require water treatment in perpetuity.
20 The EPA estimates that an abandoned mine cleanup in
21 the United State will cost 50 billion dollars and
22 permitting a mine that produces acid mine drainage
23 means that future generations will have to take
24 responsibility for a site that will be managed for
25 hundreds of years. As you all know, as you've all

1 heard data shows that it is extremely difficult to
2 predict the exact impact of mining operations before
3 they begin. You heard from Dr. Maest about the
4 unprecedented research that showed that 76 percent
5 of mines were unable to predict their impact on
6 water quality before mining. A 2023 study by
7 hydrologist and geophysicist Dr. Steve Emerman
8 highlights the inability of a mining industry to
9 identify sulfide ore mines that don't lead to
10 environmental contamination. The State of Minnesota
11 is considering a bill called the Prove It First law
12 which will prohibit sulfide ore mines unless the
13 company can provide evidence of a mine that operated
14 for 10 years and has been closed for 10 years in the
15 US or a similar environment that has no
16 environmental contamination. The mining industry
17 has routinely put forth 8 mines in the US and Canada
18 including the Eagle Mine which was discussed last
19 week. Dr. Emerman found that all 8 candidates were
20 discredited because they actually did have record of
21 environmental contamination or there was
22 insufficient data on the monitoring. So the mining
23 industry itself is unable to prove examples where
24 there's no environmental contamination. Just to
25 conclude. I'm the last person so I'm going to take

1 2 more seconds. Approving rezoning in this area
2 will be gambling on the fact that the contamination
3 would be worth the potential benefits of the
4 operation. However given the importance of water to
5 the State of Maine, the precautionary principle and
6 the impacts on future generations that this project
7 would have I urge the LUPC to not take that gamble
8 and to deny their rezoning application. Thank you.

9 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

10 MS. ARBO: We have 3 people still on the list.
11 So, Oliver Valero followed by Tegan Owen followed by
12 Aden Owen.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Ollie
14 Valero. I'm a resident of Piscataquis County and --

15 MR. WORCESTER: Can you get closer into the
16 mic, please.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Ollie
18 Valero. I'm a resident of Piscataquis County and
19 I'm a Maliseet and Passamaquoddy native youth. I'm
20 her tonight to represent myself and the other 7th
21 generation native youths within this State. Tonight
22 I would like to talk to you about the change that I
23 have seen as a Native American youth living in
24 Piscataquis County on the 3 rivers which will be
25 directly affected by the mining near our rivers. I

1 started working at the Wabanaki Youth and Science
2 programs through the University of Maine at Orono
3 when I was 11 years old and I am now 17. I have
4 learned the western sciences and seen them in action
5 from a Native perspective. I'll talk to you tonight
6 about the sciences behind why mining will have
7 negative effects on our waters, but I will be
8 approaching this from the perspective of a youth and
9 protecting our Mother Earth. I'm an avid fisherman.
10 I've seen rapid decline on our fish just since 2016.
11 I've seen my people and my elders get sick from
12 cancers and other diseases mostly caused by
13 pollution from paper mills that I'm sure at some
14 point or another were deemed as safe with the latest
15 technology. I've watched my (inaudible) pass away
16 and elders close to me get sick and pass away. My
17 grandfather passed away from -- directly from the
18 paper mill. Over the years Native people have seen
19 treaties, heard promises all of which have been
20 broken. I've seen the effects chemicals have done
21 to my people just walking through the woods and
22 touching the trees you can see and feel the effects
23 of logging and what industry has done. I fear for
24 myself, for my siblings and for every generation
25 after. It's been scientifically proven time and

1 time again that we are all in dire straits. I urge
2 you to view this from the youth's perspective. We
3 are scared, we are hurting and we know that you all
4 are too. Please, I urge you to work together and
5 work with us to preserve our future.

6 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Tegan.
8 The animals are our brothers and sisters and the
9 earth is my mom, so please keep it safe.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Aiden
11 and I'm 11 years old. I am a resident of Milo,
12 Maine and I've lived directly on the 3 rivers.
13 Please do not pass any application that may harm
14 Mother Earth. If this application is passed this
15 will be another addition to the collapse of the
16 earth's balance and all of our wildlife will be in
17 serious trouble. Please respect the balance of
18 Mother Earth and nature and do not pass this
19 application.

20 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you.

21 MS. ARBO: I don't have any new names on my
22 list.

23 MR. WORCESTER: Is there anybody else in the
24 room who would like to speak? Okay. You may come
25 up. I take it you didn't take the oath?

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, but I can.

2 MR. WORCESTER: Only if I give it. Please
3 raise your right hand. Do you affirm that the
4 testimony you are about to give is the whole truth
5 and nothing but the truth?

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

7 MR. WORCESTER: Proceed.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Laura Noble. I
9 grew up in New Mexico. I've lived as neighbors to
10 multiple indigenous communities around the United
11 States.

12 MR. WORCESTER: And where do you reside now?

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I live right now in Brewer
14 and I've lived there since 2009. I was diagnosed
15 with cancer in February 2021. I'm still alive and
16 I've met a lot of other people who have cancer and
17 the prognosis for people with cancer is a long, hard
18 road and it's very, very costly to the State, to
19 people trying to work and the families that are like
20 trying to survive with someone who could die and
21 like keep going with what they're doing. You have
22 to have support. And I've been really blessed to
23 have support. That's part of why I'm here. When
24 they talk about the water and how it runs in our
25 body, don't forget that. My cancer is partly in my

1 lymph so lymph flows through every single cell in
2 our body. That's what supports us and as determined
3 it was not genetic. It was environmental in nature
4 in how it impacted me. I still don't know the full
5 cause of this and I will never know because we have
6 so many routes to cancer. The fire retardant when
7 we're trying to prevent fires, it's in our
8 sleeping -- pajamas for children and the car seats.
9 What about the PFAS that we're already dealing with?
10 They're calling forever chemicals that have been
11 dumped on our farmland. We in Maine do not need
12 more impact like that. I really urge you to stand
13 in the way of this application. I bet every single
14 one of you knows someone who is battling cancer.
15 What are the cancer rates in this state? Where are
16 those numbers and do they correlate to the toxic
17 things that have already happened here? We can do
18 better and we know that. There's a lot of science
19 to support it. So I you urge you to think about all
20 of those things and stand for your relatives, stand
21 for your children and make a good choice and thank
22 you for hearing me.

23 MR. WORCESTER: Thank you. I wish to remind
24 everyone that the record will remain open for
25 written comments from the public for 10 days until

1 Thursday, November 2, 2023. And for an additional
2 week until Thursday, November 9, 2023, for rebuttal
3 testimony. Except for post-hearing briefs to be
4 filed by the parties no other evidence or testimony
5 will be allowed into the record after that date.

6 Updates on the review process for the proposed
7 rezoning including links to the Commission's final
8 determination in this matter, when available, will
9 be provided to the Maine Gov delivery e-mail system
10 and posted on the LUPC website. Persons with
11 questions about signing up for the e-mail notice
12 should speak with an LUPC staff. I hereby close the
13 public hearing on the Land Use Planning Commission
14 on ZP 779-A the proposed rezoning too allow for the
15 Pickett Mountain Mine. Thank you, people.

16 (This public hearing on ZP 779-A concluded at 9:45 p.m. this
17 date.)

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3 CERTIFICATE

4 I, Karen A Dube-Harriman, a Notary Public in and
5 for the State of Maine, hereby certify that on October 23,
6 2023, personally appeared before me: LUPC MEMBERS AND
7 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, in the aforementioned cause of action:
8 IN RE: ZONING PETITION ZP 779A and the foregoing, as reduced
9 to computer type is a true and accurate record of the
10 evidence as taken by me by means of stenograph.

11 I further certify that I am a disinterested person
12 in the event or outcome of the aforementioned cause.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and seal in
14 Readfield, Maine, this 1st day of November, 2023.

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16
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18
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20 _____
21 Karen A Dube-Harriman, Notary Public
22 My Commission Expires, May 19, 2025
23
24
25

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